

thechronicle

A DEGREE OF SUCCESS FOR COLIN, AGE 83

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WIN TICKETS FOR SHOWJUMPING'S BIGGEST NIGHT

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DRAMA SCHOOL PUPILS GET BIG TV BREAK

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Town's links to Titanic will be showcased in new exhibition

ARTEFACTS and images revealing Stourbridge's links with the Titanic are set to be showcased in a new exhibition.

Great Barr researcher Andrew Lound is planning to cram in findings from 40 years of research into the display, illustrating the ship's links with Stourbridge, Smethwick and Bilston.

The exhibition will feature pictures of weighing equipment made by Smethwick-based W&T Avery Ltd at its Soho Foundry in 1911 used to weigh luggage.

There will be pictures of safes, made by Bilston-based Perry & Company, that would have been located on the sea deck and used to keep first-class

passengers' valuables safe, and door locks made by a number of small firms in Willenhall.

Mr Lound, aged 45, said the exhibition would feature about 400 exhibits. "People will be dumbfounded by how much of that ship came from the Black Country and the Midlands."

Glass

Artefacts on display will include examples of crystal glass produced by Stourbridge-based companies including Stuart Crystal.

There will also be a plate featuring the Perry & Company logo, which would have been the same as the ones on the ship's safes.

It will also feature samples of metal from the wreck site and models

showing the development of shipbuilding and the Midlands' connections with them.

Although a date or location for the exhibition is yet to be confirmed, it is hoped it will take place in January. The exhibition is one of a number of events to mark the 100th anniversary of the ship sinking on April 15, 1912.

Next Saturday, a replica anchor, like the one on the ship, will be unveiled at Nethererton Arts Centre.

The shackle and cable chain of the anchor were made by Walter Somers at Halesowen.

For information, email Andrew Lound at odyssey@lound.dial.pipex.com or visit the website www.odyssey.dial.pipex.com

Anchor aweigh – Page 6

TRIBUTES TO HEART VICTIM, 15

Tributes have been paid to a Stourbridge school pupil who died of heart failure after collapsing on the beach while playing football with his family.

James Lowe, aged 15, of Brierley Hill has been on holiday in Devon with his parents Chris and Angela and his 12-year-old brother Thomas when he was taken ill.

This photograph, released by his family, shows James and Thomas near the beach on holiday just days before his collapse.

Despite the efforts of the lifeguards, an off-duty doctor, firemen and anaesthetist at the scene, James died later at North Devon Hospital in Barnstaple.

His father Chris, aged 46, said their extended family had joined them for



James, left, and Thomas on holiday

an extra couple of days at the end of their traditional summer break to Croyde.

"We had only been playing football on the beach for three or four minutes and he had seemed fine running around," he said. "I remember him saying he didn't want to play any more as he appeared to suddenly trip and fall face first onto the sand."

West Bromwich Albion fan James

had been born with an undiagnosed genetic syndrome which affected the development of his bones and muscles and suffered heart problems which saw him make regular trips to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

But despite his mobility problems, Mr Lowe said James lived life to the full and was a popular pupil at Redhill School in Stourbridge.

He had been taking golf lessons, enjoyed music and was due to become a prefect at school this term.

"James always tried so hard in everything he did and we are so proud of him and the person he had become," added Mr Lowe, of Stamford Road.

Around 1,000 tributes have been left on the website Facebook which Chris says has been comforting to the family during such difficult days.

Dozens of condolence cards have also arrived at the family home.

James died on August 28. His funeral was being held at Stourbridge Crematorium today (September 15).

It is family flowers only but donations can be made to Birmingham Children's Hospital and the RNLI.

Band that's aiming to be streets ahead in final



The Pargeters, from left, Rich Jauncey and Nick Jauncey, with, top left, singer, James Rees and Pete Wainwright on bass. Final member Greg Cartwright is in Poland

A BAND named after the Stourbridge street in which they live in have beaten off competition from around 150 groups to land a spot on the bill at a top London venue.

The Pargeters, who live and rehearse in Pargeter Street, could land a £100,000 prize including recording and production deals when they play in the national final of the Surface Festival 2011.

They will perform at the prestigious IndigO2 venue at the O2 in London on October 1 backed by a legion of fans from the Black Country.

Drummer

The Pargeters are lead singer and guitarist, James Rees, Rich Jauncey and Greg Cartwright on guitars, bass player Pete Wainwright and drummer Nick Jauncey.

More than 150 bands started off in the Midlands section of the Surface competition and just five have made it through to play alongside regional winners from the rest of the UK. In all, 20 bands from around Great Britain will compete for the top prize.

For more details see www.surfacefestival.com or www.facebook.com/pargeters

Residents' dismay at threat of closure

ELDERLY residents who could be forced to leave their council-run care home have told of their dismay at the sudden news.

They said they only found out that New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford was earmarked for closure in the local press. The home could close within three years, along with New Swinford Hall in Stourbridge and New Bridge House in Coseley.

A group of residents and their relatives, led by 78-year-old Harry Griffiths, are fighting the plans which they say will break up their "family".

Mr Griffiths, a retired long distance lorry driver, has only been at the care home, off Stream Road, for around nine months. He was one of the last residents to leave council-run care home Amblecote House after Dudley Council shut it. He was joined at New Bradley Hall by Granville Cotterill, 88, who also had to leave Amblecote House.

The closure plans were due to go before Dudley Council's cabinet for approval on Wednesday night.

Mr Griffiths said residents had been devastated by the news. "It is a disgrace that the only way that we found out it was shutting was in the Express & Star. We just feel in limbo," said Mr Griffiths formerly of Bredon Avenue, in Lye. "We just hope that somehow the council will think again."

Homes – Page 16

Man is arrested on suspicion of murder

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a body was found at a flat in Stourbridge.

The suspect, aged 37, was detained along with a 25-year-old man suspected of burglary and another man, aged 45, on suspicion of supplying a controlled drug.

They were held shortly after the body was discovered in Caslon Crescent, Norton.

Police launched their investigation after paramedics were called at 1pm on Saturday to reports of a man suffering a cardiac arrest at a ground floor flat.

The man, aged 44, was declared dead at the scene and ambulance staff called West Midlands Police.

The death is being treated as unexplained while police wait for post mortem results.

All three men have been bailed pending further inquiries.

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Comedians join festive line-up

BLACK COUNTRY comedians including Tommy Mundon and Ian 'Sludge' Lees will be performing in a show to be staged at the Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Mundon, aged 77, is continuing to work despite a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease.

Special guests The Crookers will also be at the Black Country Christmas Show.

The event will be held on December 10. Tickets are £10. To book, call the box office on 01384 812812.

Colin engineers a degree – at 83

YOU are never too late to learn – just ask Wolverhampton University's oldest graduate Colin Clews.

At 83, he has just achieved his lifelong dream of landing a degree after studying for a qualification in engineering, an industry he has worked in for 50 years.

The grandfather of six said he had loved every minute of his time studying. "For the three years, I had a thoroughly good time," said Mr Clews. "It takes over your whole life – you don't have time for mowing the lawn or painting and decorating."

"I made a lot of good friends and met a lot of nice people."

"The tutors were awesomely knowledgeable about their subject and the university itself was first class."

Mr Clews decided to study Mechatronics – a mixture of mechanical and electronic engineering – as his own career had been a mixture of the two subjects.

During the Second World War, he trained as an electrician's mate and went on to spend 30 years working at British Federal Welders in Dudley.

Shoulder

He then moved to the Birmingham branch of Lamb Technicon as Proposals Manager. The company supplied equipment to car manufacturers such as Rover, Ford and Vauxhall.

After retiring at the age of 65, Mr Clews signed up to an Access to Education course at Dudley College but his wife Ivy was taken ill soon after and instead Mr Clews focused on looking after her.

He said after Mrs Clews died, he found himself at a "loose end". "One day I found myself looking over my grandson Jamie's shoulder at some work he was doing for his A-Levels and thought I would like to do something like that," he said.

Mr Clews was based at the university's Telford Campus in Priorslee.

Mr Clews, who achieved a 2:1 in his degree, was joined at his graduation ceremony by daughters Jane and Maggie, son Tony, his sisters and grand-daughters.



Hats off – proud graduate Colin Clews celebrates his achievement at 83

Pictures of baby scans net cash

HOSPITALS in the Black Country are making tens of thousands by charging mothers-to-be for a photograph of their unborn child.

The amount pregnant women pay for pictures from routine scans varies from £3 to £5.

Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, charges £3 per photo which last year brought in more than £35,000. The money went to a charity fund and covered costs and staff training.

David Orme, co-chairman of patient group Dudley Link, said he was keen that money raised was used for charitable purposes. He added: "Link could consider whether a standardisation of prices could be brought in, and we would be interested in hearing from patients on this matter."

New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton charges £5 per image and at Walsall Hospitals the fee is £3.50. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals charge £3 but will be raising that in the next six months to £5, including a presentation card. Spokeswoman Helen Eden said: "The money goes back into patient care."

MPs notch up £500,000 bill over one year

MEMBERS of Parliament in the Black Country and Staffordshire have been paid more than half a million pounds in expenses since they were elected a year ago, new figures have revealed.

The latest tranche of claims for second home, travel, office and staff costs for April and May were revealed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

They showed MPs in the area were paid a total of £50,097.82 in expenses during the two months.

Their received a total of £57,420.37 between May 2010 and May 2011.

Unpaid claims were also laid bare – but the data showed no local MPs were found to be in breach of the new rules with their claims rejected.

However, they were braced for extra scrutiny of their expenses by voters.

Across the country there was fresh controversy as it emerged that 69 claims were turned down, or only part reimbursed by officials.

Margot James

Conservative, Stourbridge

Amount claimed April/May: £3,623.80. Claims included: Office costs including £832.80 for a computer and £666 website design and production. Claims rejected: None. Claims part paid: None. Total for year since May 2010: £26,782.66

regarding the expenses of some 45 MPs.

In total, 27,000 claims were disclosed – and MPs paid £3.5million during April and May this year.

Tom Watson, MP for West Bromwich East, claimed £1,304.16 for the services of a PR firm set-up by a former aide to ex-PM Gordon Brown. He said: "I regularly consult my constituents on issues affecting them and their loved ones."

A further £617,695 should be spent on affordable housing and £12,000 on public art.

One project for which the council is awaiting cash is the building of 72 homes on the former M & J Drilling Works in Lower Gornal. The council is owed £846,681.

Money is owed for projects

DUDLEY Council is owed £1.5million for community projects by developers who have been given planning permission for recent building work.

The authority was promised £2m over the last 12 months, but just £531,000 was received in all.

The cash – provided by developers through Section 106 agreements – goes on projects including play areas, road improvements and public art displays.

Each developer has to sign an agreement when given planning consent. The council issued contracts to receive £666,301 for open space, sport and recreation facilities, £290,987 for transport improvements and £64,415 for nature conservation.

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Scheme to protect the wildlife at home

INSTALLING special street lamps and creating grassland with wildflowers are among proposals to safeguard wildlife at a Stourbridge ancestral home.

A plan to build 14 houses on land at the 18th century Wordsley Manor, near Stourbridge, stalled seven months ago when councillors insisted on protection for rare slow worms and bat roosting sites.

Developer Selbourne Homes has drawn up a new plan to tackle the issues in a bid to win approval for the planning application.

Managing director Gavin Warr says the firm hopes the proposals will satisfy the borough's planning officers.

Under the new plan, three conservation areas would be set aside for the slow worms.

A central metal gridded pathway through gardens and a rockery would be created to give worms passage through to a watercourse.

Covenant

Small crossing points called eco-ducts would be made into stone walls on the site.

These would also allow for the movement of the worms.

Ten bat boxes would be fixed and inspected annually, and special illuminated bollards installed to create an environment friendly to bats.

A covenant would bind any future developers to protect wildlife.

The scheme would raise £400,000 for renovations to the manor house, home to Christopher Firmstone's family for 160 years.

Mr Firmstone said parts of the house are in a dilapidated state.

Charity taking wing



Nick Owen in front of one of the charity's aircraft

MIDLANDS Air Ambulance opened its air base doors to the public and raised more than £10,000 for the charity.

The airbase at Strensham, Worcestershire staged its ninth annual open day.

BBC Midlands Today host Nick Owen, a long-time supporter of the charity, opened the event. Guests were treated to a tour of the base and its facilities and throughout the day paramedics and pilots were there to give talks about the work they do.

Other activities on Saturday, September 3 included displays by a variety of visiting emergency services and classic cars but the star of the show was the E135 aircraft.

Visitors saw the response speed when the charity was called out to two emergencies during the day. Annie Newell, area fundraising manager and event organiser said: "It was a truly wonderful day. It was a fantastic to see the crew, staff, volunteers and supporters together and a great way to thank those who fundraise tirelessly for us."

Go online for places at school

PARENTS can apply online for school places for their children in a scheme in Dudley.

From this month, families looking for places for children starting primary school or transferring to secondary school for next year can visit the website www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions

Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Liz Walker, said the scheme gives greater flexibility to parents.

The authority says paper applications are still available on request.

But it claims the online system makes the process easier.

For families who do not have access to a computer, free drop-in sessions using public computers will be run at libraries across the borough during September and October.

Schools admissions staff will be on hand throughout the sessions to give help and advice.

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Derelict pub could become care home

A VANDAL-HIT former pub and brewery in Dudley town centre will be given a new lease of life after lying empty for more than 30 years, under new transformation plans led by a Stourbridge firm.

The Gypsies Tent Inn, on the corner of Steppingstone Street and Stafford Street, has fallen into disrepair since closing in 1980.

It has been targeted numerous times by vandals and stripped of many of its original features. But the pub, on one of the main routes to the town centre, is now set to be converted into a care home.

Kitchen

Jim Sadhra, of Stourbridge-based We Care Ltd, has submitted proposals to refurbish and extend the building, which dates to 1841.

Andy Law, of Bowles Whittick Young, says of the building's closure: "It has since fallen into disrepair and requires total refurbishment including the replacement of floors and roofs."

"The property has suffered severe vandalism and has been stripped of many of the original fittings and features."

Under the proposals a two-storey extension would be built providing single-bed, en-suite accommodation for up to 10 residents. There would also be a dining room, kitchen, laundry and sitting room as well as a respite room and garden.

Staff and general office and store rooms would be created.

The main pub building would be repaired and a wheelchair access pathway from the Steppingstone Street edge of the Pitfield Street car park provided.

Sponsored trot is a thank-you

RIDING fans can get out their best crop and boots for a sponsored trot through the Midland countryside.

The Gothersley Sponsored Ride was organised by stable owners at Gothersley Farm in Stourton to raise money for the Midland Air Ambulance after young rider Sophie Holder, nine, was badly injured when she fell from her pony and had to be airlifted to hospital last May.

"She was trekking with one of her friends when a pheasant flew out from the bushes and actually got under the pony, spooking it," said her mother Tracey, 44, of Lorrainer Avenue, Brierley Hill.

"She fell off and the pony hit her in the face with one of his hooves. She was airlifted to Birmingham Children's Hospital where she had to have plastic surgery."

"We just wanted to say thank you as the Air Ambulance were fantastic."

The ride will set off from the farm on September 18.



Stable-hands Lois Howard and Sophie Holder with nine-year-old Sophie Holder, no relation, who was airlifted to hospital after falling from her horse Ace

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Curry house scores with footballers

A BLACK COUNTRY curry house has been helping footballers in their quest to reach a £700,000 fundraising target. The Alam International, in Albion Parade, Wall Heath, hosted two charity curry events to raise £1,662 for a huge revamp at Kewford Eagles FC. The club, which has 500 young players plus adult teams, is planning to build 11 football pitches on land next to Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club in Wall Heath.

Kewford Eagles welfare officer, Lynn Boleyn, said: "We are extremely grateful to local people like Joe Uddin and Alan Emery at The Alam for their generosity."

"We have already raised around £500,000 and we are hoping that work will start early next year."

Major Lottery grant saves advice centre

Jessica gets to work at the zoo

A COUNSELLING and advice centre in Stourbridge, which was facing closure due to funding cuts, has been saved after receiving a £293,000 Lottery grant.

The cash will help The What? Centre in Stourbridge continue working with youngsters for three years.

Manager Julie Duffy said it was the "start of a new era" for the site. The centre provides advice on such issues as housing, employment, training and health for people aged 13-25.

The service also has a contract with Dudley Primary Care Trust to provide counselling to young people.

Mrs Duffy said: "The Lottery bid was very hard work and took months of preparation, but this has paid off. The funding is to cover some of the counselling, employment and training advice, to build on the young people's forum and to start some new work with parents."

The centre was left under threat after a £47,000 grant from Dudley Council was stopped last year.

TEENAGER Jessica Brookes found out what life is like at Dudley Zoo as part of a work experience placement.

The 16-year-old of Greensforge Lane, Stourton, near Stourbridge, spent a week at the attraction.

Jessica, who is to study at King Edward Sixth Form College, Stourbridge, spent time with keepers, marketing, retail and the press office.

She shadowed keeping staff for two days, including work on the farm and primates sections, plus birds and big cats.

Head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman, said: "It's very rare that we take on students for a week-long placement. But Jessica really did her homework and impressed us."

Jessica said: "I was tired at the end of each day, but I loved it."



Student Jessica Brookes shadowed Dudley Zoo staff

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Now fewer complain to council

ALMOST 90 complaints were made by the public against Dudley Council last year new figures show.

A report from the Local Government Ombudsman shows there were 88 complaints in the 2010-11 financial year, compared with 91 the previous year.

It said the council had an average 21.1 day response time, within the 28-day target set by the Ombudsman.

Councillor Tim Wright, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for human resources, law and governance, said: "We pride ourselves on doing an excellent job here at Dudley Council, but of course when things go wrong we do our best to settle the matter as quickly as possible."

Local authority chiefs say the report praised the way the council deals with complaints.

If formal complaints arise, people should use the council's internal complaints procedure by filling in a form, called At Your Service, available from council offices or online at: www.dudley.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-feedback

Word burner spark thought to have started scrap fire

ARTIFICIAL grass caught fire in a blaze in a container at a Black Country scrap yard.

Firefighters were called out to the site on Bott Lane in Lye at 5pm last Friday.

They said tyres were also in the container which was ablaze.

It is thought the fire may have been started as a result of a spark from a wood burner nearby. It did not spread anywhere else on the site.

Crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill went out to revisit the site at around 10pm to check there were no signs of the fire starting up again.

Titanic operation gets anchor to a new home

A 16-TON REPLICA of the Titanic anchor has been moved back to the place where the original was manufactured ahead of a public celebration.

The 18ft long anchor will be officially unveiled at its new home in Netherton as part of Netherton Nautical Day which takes place on Saturday.

The structure was moved out of the Black Country Living Museum on Sunday morning and taken the two miles to the town by flat-bed truck.

Halesowen Road and Northfield Road, near to Netherton Arts Centre, were closed between 6am and 2pm while the anchor was moved into place.

It was fenced off with work due to take place on the structure this week.

The original was manufactured in Netherton and is hailed as an important piece of the region's history.

Plans for new school class

PLANS to install a new mobile classroom at a Dudley school have been lodged with council chiefs.

The building at Northfield Road Primary in Netherton would replace two existing mobile classrooms.

The mobile units are believed to be beyond any hope of repair.

An application for the new classroom has now been submitted to the council.

Construction

The replica anchor was built for a Channel 4 programme delving into the history of the construction of the passenger ship.

Netherton Nautical Day will feature market stalls, street theatre, and a display on the history of the Titanic.

The original anchor was transported from Noah Hingley & Sons' works in Netherton to the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast to be fitted to the doomed liner, which sank in 1912.



The anchor on its way to Netherton

Diamond day for couple

A DIAMOND couple from Dudley who met on a farm have now celebrated 60 years of wedding bliss.

Albert and Marion Hickman, of Cypress Road, reached the milestone on September 1. To celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary they had a party with friends and family at Dudley Ex-Servicemen's Club, in Hall Street.

Marion, now aged 81, met Albert, 87, while she was picking hops on a farm in Hereford where he worked. They wed at St John's Church, in St John's Road, Kates Hill.

Marion said: "We've had our ups and downs but we help one another out and do lots of things together. I like cooking, he likes gardening and we've been on lots of holidays together."

The couple have seven children, 18 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great grandchildren.

Albert was a bricklayer while Marion cleaned a shop and offices.



Albert and Marion Hickman celebrating their diamond wedding

Crews to double up after attacks

TWO fire engines are responding to 999 calls on a Black Country estate to provide back-up for crews following a spate of attacks on fire-fighters.

Yobs have been throwing stones at crews attending in the Wren's Nest area of Dudley.

A firefighter was left with broken ribs after youths were spotted throwing a brick at Wrens Nest Nature Reserve.

Another had a bruised collarbone after stones were thrown.

Both incidents happened within a day of each other last month.

As a result two fire engines are currently being sent out to jobs in the Wren's Nest area.

Dudley fire station watch commander Mark Smith said: "We are there to do a job."

Spread

"Sometimes these fires have been set deliberately to get us out there," he added.

"Sometimes they do not realise they can spread very quickly."

The incident with the brick happened on August 22 while the stone throwing injury happened the following day.

In June last year drunken yobs pelted a fire engine with stones after a crew tackled a rubbish blaze at the Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett.

Firefighters were attacked around 200 times last year.

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Band 2 Course of Treatment - £47.00

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Band 3 Course of Treatment - £204.00

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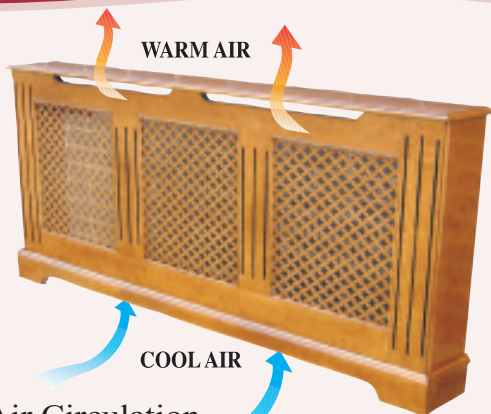
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COMPETITION

Trot along to enjoy horse show extras

THIS year's Horse of the Year Show features various new additions and promises to be another exceptional event not to be missed.

New this year is the 2011 Express Eventing Final. This promises to be an exciting new addition to HOYS on October 4, where visitors can witness the compact version of eventing under one roof.

Also new for this year, the Think Like a Pony Interactive Feature Area where the team will be on hand to provide demonstrations and answer your questions.

In addition, HOYS will also play host to the Household Cavalry Musical Ride. A spectacular military tradition which leaves a lump in your throat and a wave of Rule Britannia washing over you - it is a true highlight to the show.

Famous

The Chronicle series has teamed up with the show organisers to offer nine readers the chance to win a pair of tickets so they can experience the 'world's most famous horse show' first hand.

This year's show will take place from Tuesday, October 4 to Sunday, October 9, at Birmingham's NEC and will host the finals of the most highly-regarded showing and show jumping championships, alongside an exciting line-up of equestrian entertainment.

The Osborne Refrigerators Double Harness Scurry Racing and the exhilarating Equimax Pony Club



Mounted Games also return to the show alongside the HOYS Dressage Special. With two arenas, 1,500 horses, 1,400 competitors and a huge retail village including 250 stands, the NEC is transformed into an equestrian extravaganza with something to excite every visitor.

To find out more about Horse of the Year and the 2011 line up, visit www.thenecc.co.uk and www.lgarena.co.uk.

Tickets for Horse of the Year are on sale now, priced between £27-£59.50 with shopping-only tickets priced at £9.50. To buy, visit www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 338 8000.



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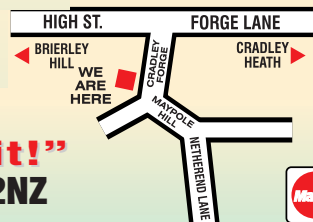


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Stepping out for charity

WALKERS will stride out across a Stourbridge park for a charity event next at the weekend.

The Alzheimer's Society Memory walk is being held at Mary Stevens Park, on Saturday (September 17). It is open to all ages and starts at noon.

Charity spokeswoman Emma Dowler said: "Memory Walk is a fantastic way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Additionally we have classic cars, a balloon launch and zumba warm-up."

The Memory Walk is the society's biggest annual fundraiser, funding home support, carers groups, research and social activities.

New postal routes rolled out in region

NEW POSTAL delivery routes are being rolled out across the West Midlands and Staffordshire as part of an overhaul of services in the region.

Changes to the mail delivery service are being introduced by Royal Mail over the next 18 months.

First up is Dudley, where the changes are already under way.

As well as alterations to routes, more postal workers are set to head out on their rounds in vans or with a trolley to deliver items rather than using traditional mail bags.

Bosses said the changes were being made because fewer letters are being posted, with more larger items such as parcels going through the mail system which can be difficult for postmen to carry in their bags. It is not known

when the new routes will be rolled out elsewhere in the region.

The changes in Dudley won't lead to a reduction in the number of workers and the number of routes will be the same.

However, some householders who were at the start of a route may now find themselves at the end of one.

Lunchtime

Although Royal Mail says many customers will continue to get their mail by lunchtime, the time will depend on where they are on the new delivery route.

The changes came into force this week in Dudley and are expected to be fully implemented within a few weeks.

Letters are being sent to customers to tell them of the changes.

Business groups and councillors are also being informed.

Royal Mail's collections and delivery sector manager, Roy Sylvester said: "We are proud of the high regard in which our postmen and women are held in Dudley."

"These changes to our delivery routes mean that members of our local and experienced team will still be delivering to our customers in Dudley."

"The local delivery team and I are fully committed to providing a high quality of service that is as reliable and friendly as customers have come to expect from Royal Mail in Dudley over many years."

Royal Mail bosses say the changes will require a "period of adjustment for staff" but they will be doing everything possible to maintain a high level of service for customers.

Postie who delivers tradition on round



Postman Gary Talbot, deputy mayor of Stourport, wears a more traditional uniform

THESE DAYS the sight of a postman strolling the streets of the West Midlands in full uniform is a rare occurrence.

But one postie is happy to tip a nod to years gone by. Stourport's deputy mayor Councillor Gary Talbot still wears a cap, long sleeves, tie and long trousers for his day job making deliveries around the town.

The father-of-one says the traditional look proves a hit with his customers. Councillor Talbot, of Gibbons Crescent, started with Royal Mail in 1994.

He was issued with a standard cap and tie to wear as he made deliveries from his Stourport office.

While over the years uniforms rules have changed he has managed to retain his favoured attire.

He said: "I am one of the relatively few postmen now who still wear a peaked cap, tie, long-sleeved shirt and long trousers, on the basis that my customers deserve to have their postman looking like an postman."

Burglar found sawing away at school pipe

A BURGLAR was caught sawing through metal pipes at a Brierley Hill school by a worker carrying out refurbishment of the site, a court heard.

Anthony Price entered a sealed-off building at Hawbush Primary School and started to cut into the heating system.

But he was disturbed by an employee from construction firm ISG who had arrived at the site, in Hawbush Road, to start work for the day.

Dudley Magistrates Court was told on September 5 that the worker had called out to Price, believing him to be another member of staff.

Price ran past him in a panic. He was arrested by police three weeks later and was identified by the worker in a line-up, the court heard.

Price, of Leys Road, Brockmoor, pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary with intent to steal.

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Price, of Leys Road, Brockmoor, pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary with intent to steal.

Mrs Clare Davis, prosecuting, said damage had been caused to the heating system inside the building following the break-in, at around 7.20pm on May 30.

"This part of the school building was closed off at the time for refurbishment work to take place and only construction staff had permission to enter."

Price had originally pleaded not guilty to the charge but changed his plea before a trial which was due to be held on September 6.

The case was adjourned until September 23 for a pre-sentence report to be prepared.

Police bill is lost in translation

WEST Midlands Police is cutting the amount it spends on interpreters by almost half.

The force is to slash its £1.8million a year bill as part of cost-cutting measures in the wake of crippling budget reductions.

Senior officers are trying to save £126m over the next four years and said it can save £750,000 on interpreters.

Under the new plans, interpreters will see their hourly rates cut from £32 to a minimum of £16, the abolition of a minimum two-hour payment and the removal of travelling time payments and travel expenses.

Chief Superintendent Steve Anderson said: "We do recognise that many of our interpreters have given excellent service to West Midlands Police and feel nervous about the new arrangements, but we are confident that over the next couple of months their fears will be allayed."

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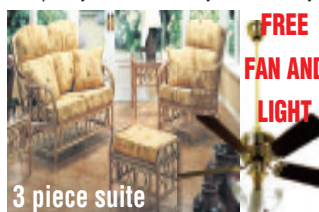
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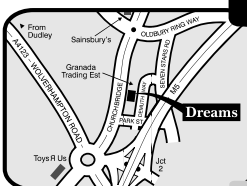
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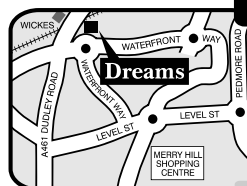
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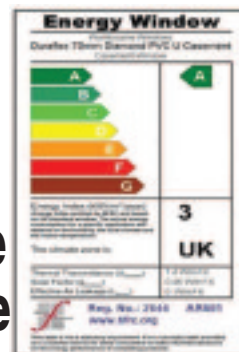
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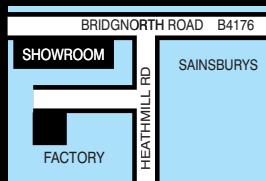
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Talented pupils get their big break on TV drama



Gregory Piper and Jordyn-Eve Davis-Greene with their teacher Esther Stanford

Accent placed on tracing our regional dialect

THE West Midlands' linguistic heritage is set to be explored in a new research project comparing the way today's residents speak to text from an ancient medieval manuscript originating from the area.

The research by the University of Birmingham is looking at how far people in the region share the language of their predecessors captured in the Vernon Manuscript, the biggest surviving late-medieval English manuscript.

Written in the West Midlands dialect around 1400AD, the lavishly illustrated document contains more than 350 texts spread over 700 pages and weighs a whopping 22kg.

Made up of a collection of poetry and prose, the manuscript was created by two regional scribes aiming to make religious texts accessible to local non-Latin speakers.

Researchers were staging sessions in Wolverhampton and Walsall to invite the viewing of images of pages from the manuscript and reading of some of the texts, putting today's accents to the test and unlocking their origins.

Forgotten

Sessions were being held in Wolverhampton Library yesterday and at Walsall Museum's education room in Lichfield Street today and tomorrow.

Research scholar, Luke Darbyshire from the university's English department, said: "The Vernon Manuscript is an important, but forgotten, aspect of our local culture and history."

"We are investigating the relationship between the dialect of the Vernon Manuscript and the language of the modern West Midlands. "We are expecting to find that some common regional pronunciations and dialectal features present today stem from the medieval English used at the time of the manuscript."

Contact Luke on 0121 415 8662 or email lxd974@bham.ac.uk

A PAIR of young Black Country actors have won parts in a new BBC drama starring Neil Morrissey and Gina McKee.

Gregory Piper, aged 13, from Dudley, and Jordyn-Eve Davis-Greene, 11, of Stourbridge, have roles in the five-part BBC2 show Line of Duty.

Written and produced by Jed Mercurio, the creator of Bodies and Cardiac Arrest, the series – based on a mistaken police shooting – will air early next year.

Windsor High pupil Gregory, of Haden Close, plays Ryan Pilkington, a troubled youngster who gets caught up in the action.

He will appear in every episode and is at the centre of a major storyline when he takes a character hostage.

His fellow drama school pupil Jordyn-Eve, of Whittington Road, also has a part in the crime series.

She will play Natalie Tate, the daughter of a corrupt detective inspector played by Lennie James.

It was the pair's first audition and both are looking forward to appearing on television for the first time.

Scary

Gregory said: "It was quite scary having to audition in front of a room full of people. I've done school plays before, but nothing like this."

Jordyn-Eve said: "When they called me and told me I had got the part it was one of the happiest moments of my life. I was very nervous but the camera crew were all really nice and made me feel more relaxed."

Gregory and Jordyn-Eve both attend the group Dramaworkshop, run by Esther Stanford, 33, and based at Chawn Hill Church in Stourbridge.

Miss Stanford said: "They have done so well in such a short space of time so I'm really delighted for them."

"It's a great endorsement of all the hard work they have been putting in."

Miss Stanford set up the drama group a year ago, having appeared in shows such as EastEnders, The Bill and Heartbeat.

Dramaworkshop is linked to First Act Workshops in Birmingham, which arranges its auditions. Gregory and Jordyn-Eve, who starts Redhill School in Stourbridge in September, will be busy filming for the show in Coventry until November.

The show is expected to be screened early next year.

Mosque plan is recommended for a refusal

PLANS for a mosque in Dudley look set to be refused – but council chiefs are offering Muslim leaders another three years to re-submit proposals.

The £6million scheme for the site in Hall Street, Dudley will go before the council later this month and has been recommended for refusal.

Dudley Council planning officers say the plans "fail to make a positive contribution" to the area. Outline planning permission for the site in Hall Street, Dudley was secured at appeal in 2008 after the council originally threw the plans out.

Dudley Muslim Association was then required to submit a more detailed application – set to be rejected by the development control committee on September 19.

But an application to extend the outline permission by three years has been earmarked for approval.

The complex would include leisure facilities, open to non-Muslims, two cafes, a multi-use sports hall, a gym, a nursery and an exhibition of Muslim beliefs.

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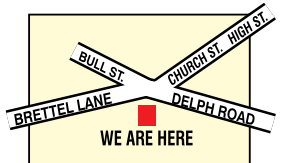
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Stolen Toby is reunited with family

A FAMILY from Halesowen have been reunited with their pet dog after it was stolen while they were on holiday – and have spoken of their delight at having him back home.

Three-year-old Toby, a Bichon Frise, was snatched from owner Peter Mills's mother's garden in West Bromwich on August 21. He was discovered tangled in brambles by a woman and her grandson near the Ridgacre pub in New Gas Street, West Bromwich, a week after he disappeared.

They spotted a newspaper article about the theft and called the family to say 'Toby was safe and well.'

He has now been reunited with Mr Mills, his wife Debbie and their children Sian, 18, and Josh, 16, at their home in Manor Lane, Halesowen.

Since returning he has been back playing with his best friend Pippa, the family's other white three-year-old Bichon Frise.

Sian, who is about to start a child nursing course at Leicester's De Montfort University, said: "We didn't think we would ever see him again but we were so happy when he came back. It was great to see him back again. He is still quite afraid of men but he is getting better."

The family believe Toby may have been abandoned by the people who snatched him when they realised he was neutered and would not be able to breed.

Mrs Mills said they had been through turmoil – a woman in Rowley Regis telephoned after finding a Bichon Frise but it turned out not to be Toby. Then a second call came.

She said: "As soon as we opened the door we knew it was him and he ran up to us with his tail wagging."



Sian Mills with Toby

Thieves dognap £10k pups and their mother



Maria Smallman and daughter Donna with the lock torn off the gate



The Smallman family's pet Dogue De Bordeaux Tia and her valuable pups

DOGS worth £10,000 were stolen from a Sandwell home in the latest case of dog-napping in the Black Country. The nine Dogue De Bordeaux puppies and their mother were taken from an unlocked shed in a back garden in Tipton.

The thieves, who broke two padlocks on a back gate to get into the garden, also stole a dog lead that had been left on the fence. Last week the Chronicle reported how dog-nappings had doubled in the past year, with thieves targeting people selling litters over the internet.

Donna Smallman, aged 16, was in the St Mark's Road home on her own at the time of the latest theft, at about 9.30pm on Monday, September 5 and believes she may have seen the culprit.

She said: "I had just come back to the house after meeting my friend and was waiting in the living room when I saw this man through the window go round to our back gate."

"I looked out the window and saw him running away from the house."

"He went towards a car but I couldn't see if he got in. I could not see anything in his hands."

"I opened the front door and the car had gone. I didn't want to go outside because I was too scared," she added.

Donna's parents Maria and John Smallman, both 53, were out shopping at the time of theft.

Feeding

They bought the puppies' mother, called Tia, about eight months ago and she gave birth last month. Mr and Mrs Smallman had not advertised the sale of the puppies on the internet.

Although Tia cost them just £200, Mr and Mrs Smallman said all the dogs were each worth about £1,000.

"We're absolutely devastated," said Mrs Smallman. "I just could not believe someone could do something like this. They have taken the mother knowing the puppies are still feeding off her."

"We have been driving around the streets looking for them but we have had no luck."

Charity Animal Search UK has said reports of dog thefts across the country have jumped from around 30 a day to between 60 and 100 a day.

Anyone with information should call 0345 1135000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option. If you see picture icons, select the tool box, satellite dish or spanner. If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.

Select the **full re-tune** option. This is sometimes called 'first time installation', 'factory reset', 'default settings' or 'shipping conditions'. Do not select 'channel update' or 'add channels'. Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.

Channels will automatically be installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.



These instructions are a guide only. Product specific instructions can be found at digitaluk.co.uk/retuning.

For more information on re-tuning call 08456 50 50 50

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Trust sets £1m target from sale of its buildings

HEALTH chiefs in Dudley plan to raise more than a £1million from the sale of two former medical centres and a care home. Two of the buildings are in Stourbridge.

All three buildings have already closed after being deemed surplus to requirements by bosses at Dudley Primary Care Trust. Interested parties must put in their bids by the end of the month.

The former Brierley Hill health centre, in Albion Street, has been given a price tag of £450,000.

Offers of around £350,000 could secure West Hill clinic, off Hagley Road, Stourbridge, and a former care home in Mere Road, Norton, Stourbridge, is on for £265,000. All properties are listed with Stourbridge-based estate agent The Lee, Shaw Partnership.

Dudley Primary Care Trust spokeswoman Laura Broster said: "There is a closing date for offers on the building as this is usual practice when selling buildings of this nature."

"Interested parties submit bids for the buildings and we then review which, if any, of the offers is most acceptable."

"As these properties were no longer suitable, the services that used to be in them have moved."

"As a public body we have to achieve the very best price on disposal of our assets."

Fire cuts 'cannot be met'

CUTS in fire service budgets in the West Midlands could not be met even if the region's fire service headquarters at Neshells, Birmingham was shut completely, claims the chairman of the region's fire authority.

Councillor John Edwards, who sits on Sandwell Council, said that West Midlands Fire Service had been hit with £10million in government funding cuts between 2011 and 2013 with a further £20m expected to be taken off it up 2015.

Cuts are expected to lead to the loss of 400 uniformed jobs by 2015 as a recruitment freeze means 80 fire-fighters posts disappear each year.

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thechronicle

Council shuts three homes

Pete's chance of fame



Pete Boddiss at his First Floor Vintage music store

VETERAN Stourbridge singer-songwriter Pete Boddiss, aged 67, is having another stab at fame after playing gigs in the Black Country for more than 40 years.

He has made it to the regional final of the Open Mic UK contest on October 29. If he gets through, the national final is at London's O2 Arena in January. The winner gets a recording contract.

Mr Boddiss, of Wollaston, runs the First Floor Vintage record and guitar shop in Lower High Street, Stourbridge.

Married with one son, he will prepare for his big night by playing with the Jazziatrics at the Harvest Festival in Stourbridge town centre on Saturday (September 17).

THREE of the last remaining council-run care homes in Dudley borough – including one in Stourbridge – will close over the next three years, Dudley Council announced.

It plans to shut New Swinford Hall in Stourbridge, New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford and New Bridge House in Cosleby by April 2014.

The homes have a total of 63 beds, which are a mixture of long and short stay.

Last month, the council announced that the 41-bed long-stay Shenstone House in Halesowen would close in March 2012.

Tiled House Care Home in Pensnett and Amblecote House near Stourbridge also shut last year.

The only council home left will be Russells Court in Dudley, which will take on an extra 31 short-stay beds.

The council says it will look into the question of whether staff can be redeployed at other sites.

Confident

New Bradley Hall in Stream Road, which provides long-stay accommodation, will shut in 2013, while short-stay homes New Bridge House in Bayer Street and New Swinford Hall, Martley Drive will close in either 2013 or 2014.

Councillor Lesley Faulkner, cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "Of course, news of any home closure is regrettable.

"But I am confident that we are directing our resources at the areas of service that will make the greatest impact on helping people to live in homes of their choice."

Address puts man in prison

A MAN who admitted damaging security barriers at a hospital has been jailed for 14 days after being caught giving a previous address to the court.

Andrew Fletcher, aged 30, was captured on CCTV bending the two barriers at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital out of shape at around 2.55am on Aug 29, causing £300 damage.

Fletcher pleaded guilty to criminal damage at Dudley Magistrates Court.

He was sentenced to a six-month community order, given a 7pm-7am curfew to run for eight weeks and ordered to pay £300 compensation and £85 costs.

But he then asked for the curfew to run at a house in Bushey Fields Road, Dudley, rather than the home address in Overfield Road given previously.

When it was queried, Fletcher admitted he had not lived at the Overfield Road address for around a month. He was immediately sent to the cells for contempt of court.

Thousands at the classic show



Chris Unitt, left, with his 1924 Model T Ford and Martin Monaghan, showing off his 1953 Ford Prefect at the Himley Hall classic car show



Graham Gamble and his Easy Rider-style replica Panzer bike signed by Peter Fonda

CLASSIC cars and vintage vehicles headed into a popular beauty spot for an annual show.

More than 3,000 people flocked to the grounds of Himley Hall to see over 750 vehicles, including buses and cars.

Organiser Geoff Price said: "Everyone seems to have been enjoying themselves and the weather held off for periods, so I'm happy."

Among the exhibitors was Chris Unitt, aged 46, who was there with a 1924 Model

T Ford which he has restored with modern parts, including an axle from an E-Type Jaguar.

The lorry driver from Darlaston bought the car after it had fallen into disrepair being used in "hot rod" competitions.

One of the most popular attractions was a replica Panzer 1490cc motorbike – as seen in the 1969 film Easy Rider.

It is signed by the film's star Peter Fonda and owned by Graham Gamble, 53, of Seisdon.

Plans for facelift at station

DETAILED plans are being drawn up for a £14,000 facelift of an ageing bus station as bosses prepare for work to begin later in the year.

Travel firm Centro is developing a scheme to improve Gornal Wood Bus Station following successful talks with Dudley Council officials a few months ago.

And the company revealed they were looking at possible changes to the layout when the four existing shelters are replaced.

Officials said they wanted to study "all possible options" at the site before putting forward a final proposal for the project.

Residents have been calling for the station to be improved for years as existing stands at the site starting to become worn.

As part of the scheme all four of the shelters will be torn up and new modern ones installed. Lighting at the station, in the heart of Gornal, will be upgraded to improve security.

Hundreds of commuters use the bus station every week and plans to update the station have been ongoing between Centro and Dudley Council for months.

Centro spokesman Steve Swingle said no date had yet been set for the work to begin but scheme details were being put together.

Watchman earns his first stripe

THE mascot of the former Staffordshire Regiment has been promoted to Lance Corporal as a reward for good behaviour. Staffordshire Bull Terrier Watchman V took over at 3 Mercia (Staffords) last October.

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New railcard for couples goes on sale

THE BLACK COUNTRY and Birmingham has been chosen to trial a new railcard which will give passengers a third off train tickets. There are 78 train stations across the West Midlands taking part.

The project, known as the Two Together Railcard, is thought to be the first of its kind in the country.

Harry, 10, climbs England's big peak

A BLACK COUNTRY 10-year-old has raised £275 by climbing England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike.

Harry Vincent, a pupil at Hurst Green Primary School in Halesowen, took on the challenge for children's disability charity Newlife Foundation.

But he couldn't take in the spectacular views from the summit – the cloud was too low.

Harry took seven hours to complete the 16km walk and climb with his father Steven. The money has helped to buy sensory equipment for the charity's centre in Cannock.

Harry, of Halesowen, was sponsored by family and friends along with teachers and pupils at his school, who were introduced to the charity during a morning assembly.

He said: "We were lucky to have good weather on the day, although we couldn't see anything from the top."

Just lend a hand to our furry friends



Martyn Thomas and Eve Lees appeal for volunteers at the PDSA charity shop in Stourbridge

A PET charity shop is appealing for new volunteers to help run its Stourbridge shop.

PDSA has a store in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre but is currently short of staff. The charity provides free veterinary care to the sick and injured pets of people who need financial support.

Store manager Maria Perry said: "We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are passionate about pets and who can lend a hand."

"Volunteering for PDSA is fun and the skills you learn look great on any CV, plus you get to meet plenty of new people and make some friends along the way."

No retail experience is needed as training will be provided. Visit www.pdsa.org.uk/volunteering or call the store on 01384 442953 for more details.

Staffed

It is for two named individuals who must be travelling together and their photos must be on the railcard.

Under the scheme, the cost of two off-peak single tickets from Birmingham New Street to London Euston would be cut from £86.60 to £57.74.

Residents can buy railcards from 78 selected staffed stations including Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham.

A Railcards spokesman said: "We hope this railcard will increase train travel regionally and, if successful we will look at rolling it out across the country."

For further details visit www.twotogether-railcard.co.uk

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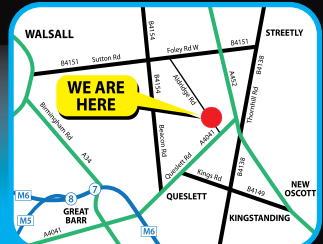
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Cruising
for the
big prize

PRIZES including a free cruise and a magnum of champagne are up for grabs at Hagley travel agent Mercian Travel as it celebrates its official re-launch.

Staff at the business have put together a packed week of events which began on Tuesday and run until Saturday and are inviting local residents and business travellers to come along and get involved in the fun.

Today's events at Mercian Travel, based on Worcester Road, have been reserved for corporate clients, with representatives from Lufthansa Group, Virgin Atlantic, Turkish Airlines and Travelcube also due to be present.

Long haul and luxury travel will be the theme of tomorrow's activities while Saturday will be given over to families, complete with games and face painting for the children.

There will also be an opportunity to hear from Whiteside Ski Holidays, which is working with Mercian to offer Polish ski holidays.

Prizes on offer include a cruise, gift vouchers and champagne.

Zoo girl Alice is heading east
to make a dream come true

DUDLEY ZOO volunteer Alice Martin is settling into a new role – halfway around the world. University graduate Alice, who was also a member of the little zoo keeper team, has moved to Japan where she will be teaching English.

She said: "I am really excited about going to Japan, it's a childhood dream come true. I will be teaching pupils aged three to 14 in a school in Kitakyushu, in the Fukuoka region of Japan. I can't wait to make a start."

Alice, who has a BSc in Animal Biology and Conservation from the University of Stafford, plus an MSc in Primate Conservation from Oxford-Brookes University, has worked as a volunteer since 2009. She is from Bushbury, Wolverhampton.

Historic mosaic to get
facelift before return

AN HISTORIC work of art will be returned to a Stourbridge shopping centre after a £50million redevelopment of the site – and is to undergo a restoration of its own.

A mosaic depicting Stourbridge's coat of arms dating from the 1920s, will be removed from its long-term home at Stourbridge's Crown Centre before work at the site begins.

And bosses at Tesco revealed their plans for the artwork for the first time.

Waste deal
bids wanted

COMPANIES are being asked to come forward to bid to get rid of construction and demolition waste in Dudley.

The borough council has launched a tender process for a firm to provide a waste disposal service for the area.

Councillor Patrick Harley, cabinet member for transportation at Dudley Council, said: "The contract period is for January 3, 2012 to December 31, 2014 with an option to extend."

Closing date for tenders is October 24.



The Stourbridge mosaic

the centre, a mechanical clock installed in 2005, is unlikely to be returned to the site when the redevelopment is finished.

The clock was installed in 2005 to celebrate the town's glass and locomotive-building heritage.

Bosses from Tesco say they made a commitment to move the clock to a new site.

The venue will be decided on by Dudley Council.

Grenade
found
in the
garden

A STOURBRIDGE student found herself at the centre of a bomb alert when she uncovered a grenade while digging a garden.

More than 30 homes were evacuated in Addison Road, Brierley Hill as a bomb disposal unit raced to the property.

The drama unfolded as Sally Mallen, aged 17, tried to dig up a tree root at the home of her sister, Michelle Bingham.

She was tackling the job at the bottom of the back garden with her boyfriend Tom Millett-Kirkham, 18, when she uncovered the grenade, which had its pin removed.

Miss Mallen, a Stourbridge College student, showed the device to her boyfriend, who carried it to the house. She said: "I thought 'That looks like a bomb' but I never thought there was a danger."

Police evacuated homes within a 100m radius and cordoned off the road for 90 minutes on Wednesday, September 7.

The grenade was found to have no charge.



Tom and Sally in the garden where they found the grenade

Plans for
speed
cut under
scrutiny

PLANS to reduce speed limits on two busy roads in Stourbridge and Halesowen will be scrutinised by a highways chief this month.

The new speed restrictions are being considered for the A459 Dudley Road/Haden Hill Road, in Halesowen, and on the A451 Norton Road, in Norton, near Stourbridge.

Dudley Council wants to reduce the limits to improve safety for pedestrians.

Residents have been consulted about the plans but the authority's highways department says no-one has raised concerns.

Limits will drop from 60mph to 40mph in Norton Road from its boundary with Worcestershire to an existing 40mph stretch up to the junction with Racecourse Lane.

Boundary

Drivers will find the 40mph limit on the A459 cut to 30mph if the proposals are approved. Limits on the A459 within Sandwell are presently 30mph and Dudley Council says it wants to create uniform standards along the road.

The reduced limit would run from the traffic island at Mucklow Hill along the Dudley Road into Haden Hill Road before reaching the Sandwell boundary.

Dudley cabinet member for transport, Councillor Patrick Harley, will consider the plans on September 27. The cost to Dudley Council would be around £5,000 and come from the minor capital works budget.

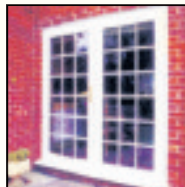
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Self-serve checkout on way at libraries

A ROLL-OUT programme which will see more people in Dudley borough check out their own library books is continuing.

Coseley and Gornal Libraries are to receive the equipment. Coseley Library will shut for a week from September 19-26 for installation and self-service will go live on September 30.

During the closure week, work will be carried out to the ICT networks and the counter moved.

Gornal Library was having its self-service machine installed this week. Self-service will go live at Gornal Library on September 21.

Councillor Adrian Turner, cabinet member for housing, libraries and adult learning, said: "Self-service technology is all about providing a better customer experience for visitors."

"Self-service will allow visitors a quick and easy way to issue and return books and is primarily designed to free up staff time so they can focus on helping visitors with enquiries."

Why Orrie tips the scales



On the scales are Orrie and keeper Adam Walker, with Lorraine Magee, centre, and, back from left, Paula Perrins, Jayne Bloore, Jill Timmins, Amanda Lemon, Rachel Smith and Anne Woodward

SLIMMING consultants who hope to inspire men in the battle of the bulge have called on their secret weapon – 64-stone Orrie.

The 20-year-old Patagonian sea lion is, in fact, a fine example of his type. Slimming World Consultants at Stourbridge and Halesowen are so impressed by Dudley Zoo's Orrie that they have adopted him.

Orrie is around twice the weight of his female friends. said Jill Hitchman of Dudley

Zoo. "It's a very acceptable weight for a sea lion in his prime," she added. "Rather like humans, the aim is to keep sea lions to a regular and constant healthy weight."

Orrie's handsome physique is due to a balanced diet with plenty of fresh fish and lots of exercise.

"Keepers make sure he jumps on the scales once a week to maintain that level."

Paula Perrins, who runs a community Slimming World group at Hagley Primary School, Hagley on Thursdays at 7.30pm said: "Lots of men mistakenly think that slimming clubs are just for women."

"When men do come along to Slimming World, research shows they lose weight even faster than women," she added.

Slimming World details: Call 07846 847068 or visit www.slimmingworld.com

Park bar for rowdy youths

GANGS of youths will be banned from gathering in a Halesowen park targeted by metal thieves and vandals after police secured new powers.

Two slides, two swings, a climbing wall and chain bridge were hacked down at The Leasowes, in Halesowen, recently.

Residents have long complained about a large number of youngsters meeting there, dropping litter and

daubing graffiti on walls. Now police have been given powers that mean they can move on rowdy youngsters.

The order will allow officers to break up groups of youths who gather in specific areas and prevent them from returning.

Anyone believed to be under the age of 16 and not under the control of a parent or responsible adult between 9pm and 6am can also be taken back to their home. The dispersal order will stay in place for six months. It covers

Leasowes Lane, Leasowes Club House, Manor Lane, Kent Road, Highlands Rise, Western Avenue and Shenstone Avenue.

Sgt Wendy Tyler, from Halesowen Police Station, said: "It will help us to tackle the problem head-on and help to make people in Halesowen feel safer."

Marianne Diller, chairman of the Friends of The Leasowes, said: "We welcome this and I hope it will improve the behaviour of youngsters who use the park."

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Banner bearers prepare for the parade



Members of the Air Training Corps get ready to march



Banners in the procession at Dudley



Air cadets on parade in Dudley in tribute to heroes of the Battle of Britain

Tribute to heroes of the Battle of Britain

A TRIBUTE to the heroes of the Battle of Britain has been held in Dudley.

The day's commemorative events included a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church, known as Top Church.

Cadets from the borough's Air Training Corps led a procession through the town centre and the Mayor and a Wing Commander from RAF Cosford received a salute when those on parade passed the council house.

The parade ended at the Cenotaph in Ednam Road, where a short service took place including a period of silence and the laying of

wreaths. Sunday's event was organised by Dudley Council to remember those involved in the Second World War battle of the skies. This year marks the 71st anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Among those who took part in the occasion were ATC cadets from 347 Dudley, 2488 Kingswinford, 2156 Brierley Hill and 223 Halesowen.

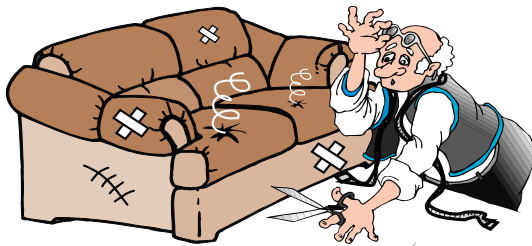
Veterans from the Netherton branch of the Royal British Legion and the Dudley RAF Association were also there.

Netherton RBL branch member Ernest Robinson, aged 87, said: "I think it is very important to remember the battle."



RBL members Ken Pearson, 71, Brian Thomas, 59 and Ernest Robinson, 87

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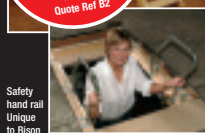
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Teenagers nursing an ambition

TWO STOURBRIDGE youngsters who underwent hospital operations have been finding out what life is like in the health service from the other side.

Thirteen-year-old Megan Luckins, from Amblecote and Mariam Ajaib, aged 14, from Stourbridge have both recently had appendix operations.

They underwent the surgery at Russells Hall Hospital.

The pair told the Wishing Well charity they both wanted to see what life was like as a nurse for the day and the organisation helped them to realise their dream.

The pair visited the hospital's maternity unit then watched as Wishing Well organiser Steve Ford had his foot plastered and also saw an ultra scan and blood test carried out.



Megan Luckins, clinical support worker Karen O'Brien, Wishing Well organiser Steve Ford and Mariam Ajaib

Gunfire reports probed

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched following reports of a gun being fired outside a house in Dudley.

Police were called to The Broadway at around 1.23am last Friday and an area around the property was sealed off.

Officers said no-one had been hurt but some minor damage had been caused to the property.

No arrests have been made in connection with the incident.

Police are asking for anyone with information to come forward and call police on 0345 113 5000.

Police spokesman Sarah Asbury said: "We are investigating an incident where a firearm was discharged outside a house in Dudley."

Girl, four, burned in matches play

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl suffered burns to her body after playing with matches.

Fire crews were called to Waverley Street, Dudley, last Thursday.

National retailer is on the way to town centre unit

THE ARRIVAL of a mystery national retailer will help reverse Dudley's fortunes after it emerged as having more shops empty than any other town centre, it is claimed.

Dudley has more shops standing empty than any other town centre of a similar size in the country.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Les Jones acknowledged the findings by the Local Data Company. But he says figures have been skewed by the closure of Spencers Market in July.

"Dudley's appearance in this list can largely be attributed to Spencers Market which closed earlier this year to make way for a new national retailer which will occupy the large 12,000sq ft premises before Christmas," he said.

"This new retailer, in addition to another new retailer which has recently leased an 8,000sq ft unit in the town, will significantly improve vacancy rates.

Positive

"This said, we are by no means complacent and we continue to work to reduce current vacancy rates, which we have recorded at 22 per cent as there are 82 vacant units out of a total of 379 units in the town."

It is unclear at this stage which high street name will be taking up the Spencers Market but an announcement is expected shortly.

Councillor Jones said the recent arrivals of Asda and Iceland into the town had been positive. "We are always looking at ways of attracting retailers into our town centres and we are proud of significant £200million regeneration plans," he added.

"We have recently been out to public consultation in relation to a £6m makeover of the market area."

Wacky Wagner calls in



Wagner Carrilho joins Conner Williams and Dillon Nixon, with PCSO Richard Lockley, firefighter Mark Harrison and PCSO Jeff Evenett

FORMER X Factor star Wagner took time out from his hectic schedule to visit a fun day organised by police just yards from his Black Country home.

He made an appearance at the event at Brockmoor Community Centre in Pensnett, down the road from the bungalow where he still lives in Blewitt Street.

The Brazilian singer signed autographs and posed for photos with fans of all ages. More than 200 people flocked to the four-hour event.

Metal thieves leave £54,000 bill

METAL thieves have plundered 120 drain covers in six months from streets in Dudley leaving taxpayers with a bill of up to £54,000.

Dudley Council said most of the thefts had happened in recent weeks as raiders try to cash in on the rising price of scrap metal.

It can cost up to £450 to repair and replace a cast iron cover depending on how much damage is caused by the thieves.

The authority is worried that the open holes left behind by thieves could pose a safety risk.

It is now looking at replacing the stolen metal grids with ones made out of alternative materials to deter raiders from taking them to sell for scrap.

The move follows a spate of thefts in Wolverhampton where 30 covers were taken in two weeks.

Cabinet member for transport, Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "Like many other local authorities we have experienced an increase in the number of reported thefts of drain covers."

Anyone finding a drain without a cover is asked to call 0300 555 2345.

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Booking advised for this week, bookings taken at venues ONLY

Monday	6.30-7.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley DY8 5RU	Wednesday	6.15-7.15pm The Grand Hall, Dudley College, The Broadway, Dudley - New Large Venue
Monday	6.00-7.00pm and 7.15-8.15pm Hilton Hall Community Centre, Lanesfield WV4 6DR	Thursdays	6.30-7.30pm and 7.45-8.45pm The Kingswinford School, Water Street, Kingswinford DY6 7AD
Tuesday	1.30-2.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley DY8 5RU	Thursday	6.30-7.30pm Darkhouse Baptist Church, Darkhouse Lane, Coseley WV14 8XH
Tuesday	7.15pm High Arcal School, Sedgley DY3 1BP	Friday	6.30-7.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley DY8 5RU
Tuesday	6.30-7.30pm Wollescote Community Centre	Friday	6.30-7.30pm The Kingswinford School, Water Street, Kingswinford DY6 7AD
Tuesday	7.45 - 8.45pm Wollescote Community Centre, Wassel Road, Wollescote DY9 9BY	Saturday	9.30-10.30am High Arcal School, Sedgley DY3 1BP
Tuesday	6.30-7.30pm Woodside Community Centre, Highgate Road, Dudley DY2 0SN		
Wednesday	<i>Change of day from 13th September</i> 6.30-7.30pm and 7.45-8.45pm High Arcal School, Sedgley DY3 1BP		

ZUMBA TONING

Monday	7.45-8.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley	Friday	New Venue 10.15am - 11.00am Jubilee Hall (The Scout Hut), Ladies Walk, Sedgley (bigger venue due to demand)
Tuesday	6.15-7pm High Arcal School Sedgley DY3 1BP		

Instructors:

Suzanne Richardson, Anneka Howdle, Emma Knott & Claire Evans

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Ditch the workout...join the Party!

IT WAS once the site of two eyesore tower blocks that were repeatedly plagued by vandalism.

But now a few piles of rubble on the ground are the only clues that the 13-storey Bolton Court towers at Ocker Hill in Tipton ever existed.

As the picture shows, demolition of the 1960s buildings is now more or less complete. Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell's cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods, said: "It's been an eyesore and an area of antisocial behaviour for a number of years, so it's good to see the work get to this stage."

“All the rubble is being crushed on site and there was a mountain of rocks when they first started.”



But now there are only a few remaining. The demolition is within days of being finished.



finished.
“Now we’re
keen to build
something

The demolition is almost complete is something that will benefit the area as soon as possible," he added. "We don't want to leave the site derelict. We're in the process of trying to find a partner who can build a series of low-rise homes."

Sandwell Council began pulling down the towers, which are close to the border with Moxley, in July.

Work had been due to begin next year but the schedule was hauled forward after the former homes were repeatedly hit by vandals. It was feared the flats may pose a health and safety risk.

Contractors Coleman and Company have carried out the work.

The blocks were recommended for demolition in April last year. Residents who were forced out were given compensation.

A STOURBRIDGE firm has donated a special fitness machine to aid the recovery of soldiers wounded in Afghanistan.

Versaclimber UK, based at Lye Business Centre, handed the £4,000 Sportsmedical model to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

Working with the machine helps physiotherapy patients regain their muscle strength. Among its users will be British military personnel injured on deployment in the middle east.

Emma Batchelor, clinical specialist in physiotherapy at the hospital, said: "We're really grateful.

"It's ideal for our patients because it provides a low impact workout, ensuring exercising is comfortable and the amount of stress placed on the ankles, knees, hips and spine is limited.

"We have used this machine with military patients who have lower limb injuries because it enables us to isolate and exercise the upper parts of the body."



Anne Vickerstaff tries her hand with the Sportsmedical physiotherapy machine while Emma Batchelor and Neil Kelford, managing director of Versaclimber UK, at Stourbridge look on

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Public to get say on camps

A PUBLIC consultation on plans to create up to 15 new sites for travellers in Wyre Forest will take place, it was announced.

Wyre Forest District Council is looking at making 145 pitches available in a bid to stop travellers turning up unannounced on land without prior permission.

Sites including Lea Castle in Cookley and Kidderminster's former Sion Hill Middle School have been unveiled as possible locations for permanent or temporary travellers' pitches.

The proposals were due to be discussed at a meeting of the council's overview and scrutiny committee and cabinet last Thursday.

But the debate was called off after more than 80 people turned up to watch.

The council said due to health and safety reasons, it had to ask the protesters to leave and eventually called in the police for back-up.

A special meeting has now been organised for September 19 which will be held at Stourport Civic Hall at 6pm.

Carpets group stepping into the vinyl flooring market

KIDDERMINSTER carpets group Victoria has moved into the luxury vinyl flooring market with the £400,000 takeover of a Devon company.

C&H Distribution, based in Willand near Exeter, supplies vinyl tiles to the contract market in the UK. If it hits sales targets Victoria will pay an additional £50,000 for the business.

Victoria says it expects the takeover to boost its earnings next year.

Group managing director Alan Bullock said: "C&H is an important step towards achieving our stated objective of becoming the leading high-quality flooring supplier in both Australasia and the UK."

Hundreds in the region gained entry to Oxford

ALMOST 550 students from the West Midlands and Staffordshire have been accepted into the University of Oxford over the last five years new figures show.

Numbers released by the prestigious educational institution under the Freedom of Information Act show 323 pupils from B postcode area, which covers Sandwell and Birmingham have accepted offers between 2006 and 2010.

Man wakes to find car fire

A MAN awoke to find his car ablaze outside his Black Country home.

He was woken by a noise just before midnight on Saturday.

The man looked out and discovered that his Seat Ibiza car was on fire in Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford.

The heat from the fire cracked a small window in the car.

The fire also melted a box in the vehicle which housed wiring.

Down to business at the Scarab

A SOCIAL enterprise in Stourbridge hopes to offer an innovative approach to business networking with a new scheme.

Hub Stourbridge is inviting self-employed people and owners of small businesses to an event at the Egyptian-themed Cafe Scarab, on Lower High Street, on Monday (September 19). The day is a chance to share ideas and network.

Cafe Scarab will open at 9.30am and a short film will be screened at midday to highlight the benefit of sharing work spaces.

Organisers hope the event will yield a permanent home for the group. Visits to a potential site have been arranged during Monday afternoon.

Hub founder Odilia Mabrouk said: "Similar projects are popping up all over the place from Birmingham to Dubai but we are excited that ours will be a Black Country first."

Spaces for the free event can be booked online at www.hubstourbridge.com or by calling 07530 310553.



Jon Hazlewood and Odilia Mabrouk promote the new business network hub at the Scarab Cafe in Stourbridge

Marina protest goes to Europe

A CAMPAIGNER who fought in vain to stop plans for a huge new marina on green belt land in South Staffordshire is taking his battle to the European Parliament.

Councillor Gordon Fanthom will deliver a dossier of petition signatures and reports to West Midlands MEP Mike Natrass which he hopes will scupper plans to build a 199-boat marina in Swindon.

Councillor Fanthom, a member of Swindon Parish Council and Swindon Marina Action Group, will then ask for the dossier to be presented to European Parliament in Brussels.

The proposal was approved by planning bosses in December but Councillor Fanthom is protesting on environmental grounds relating to an alleged flooding risk.

Marina applicants Timothy and Joanna Munday have dismissed the claims as containing "not a grain of truth".

The development would see fields flooded to create the attraction. A marina would be created with an office, farm shop, tea rooms, gift shop, viewing gallery area and a car park.

Crash rider has broken fingers

A MOTORCYCLIST was left with broken fingers after a crash involving a car in Dudley.

Firefighters and paramedics were called to The Broadway shortly before 7pm on Saturday.

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Hard at work when the laboratory was in the first school building



Ivy Freemantle, sitting second from right, in the school's hockey team in 1931



Marion Brettie pictured with fellow ex-pupils, her mother Marjorie Davies and Ivy Freemantle

School story related in a new book

A PRESTIGIOUS Stourbridge girls' school has been put in the spotlight thanks to a book written by a former pupil who is anxious to preserve the school's heritage.

Marion Brettie was concerned the history and achievements of Stourbridge Girls' High had never been documented.

She has now written a book, called *A History of Girls Gone By*, which details the story of the school from its very beginning in 1905 to its closure in 1976.



Anyone for tennis back in the 1950s?

The school was in Junction Road, Stourbridge, from 1928, and later became the Redhill School.

Members of the High School's Old Girls' Association have shared their memories and pictures for the volume, which will be published on September 21.

Mrs Brettie, formerly of Stourbridge but who now lives in Much Wenlock, attended the school between 1953 and 1960.

Her older sisters Pat and Ann also attended the school as did her mother Marjorie Davies, who is now 96.

Marjorie has her own memories of the school, including meeting her life-long friend Ivy Freemantle.

Memories

She said: "It was very different back then. When the teachers told you to do something you had to do it. 'I have very happy memories of my time there.'"

Mother-of-one Mrs Brettie, an examiner for Trinity College London, said: "I wanted to write the book because I felt there was a real risk of the school becoming a lost chapter in the town's history."

"Many only know this site as the Redhill School," she added.

"They do not know about the heritage and I wanted to do something about that."



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Here come the girls!



'Gurl' just wants to have fun - Californian pop star Katy Perry brings her sunshine sound to perk up an English autumn at Birmingham NIA on October 15

THREE of the pop world's biggest female stars will be coming to the West Midlands this autumn.

First up, fresh from her star turn at the summer's V Festival, is Barbados-born R&B diva Rihanna, who will not be needing her Umbrella when she plays Birmingham LG Arena on Saturday, October 15. And the singer, who also had massive hits with Only Girl (In The World) and Disturbia, will be returning again and again to the city, with another concert at the LG on November 18 and then at the National Indoor Arena (NIA) on November 29. Special guest on her Loud Tour will be Ibiza DJ and dance hit-maker Calvin Harris.

That California 'Gurl' Katy Perry will ensure a Firework show to remember at Birmingham NIA on Wednesday, October 26, as part of the second leg of her sold out California Dreams Tour. Expect lots of pink cotton candy. Her support will be New York-based Danish singer-songwriter Oh Land.

Glee

Perhaps the biggest of the three concerts, if only because at one time it seemed so unlikely, is the return to the live arena of pop superstar Britney Spears.

Expect all 21 of her smash hits and a couple of surprises as the blonde bombshell gets back in The Zone at the LG Arena on Sunday, October 30, in one of only three UK shows as part of her world tour to mark the release of seventh album Femme Fatale. It's her first since 2008's platinum set The Circus.

One of a handful of artists who inspired her own Glee episode, Britney promises a lavish extravaganza for the fans and, as an extra treat the comeback queen will be bringing along heart-throb Joe Jonas as her support act.

For further information see the www.necgroup.co.uk/whatson website.



Britney's back and playing the LG on October 30. Below, Rihanna visits Birmingham three times in October and November



Return of the Mac

ECHO and the Bunnymen, one of the British rock scene's most influential bands, have a prestigious gig at Birmingham's Symphony Hall performing their classic Ocean Rain album in its entirety.

Fronted by Ian McCulloch and formed in Liverpool in 1978, the group provided a cool alternative to the punk scene with their psychedelic rock inspired by The Doors, The Velvet Underground and David Bowie.

Hits

They had several hits during the 1980s, including The Cutter and Lips Like Sugar, and inspired several other groups, including Coldplay.

The band's 1984 album Ocean Rain is considered by many fans and critics to be their masterpiece, including the songs Silver, Seven Seas and The Killing Moon. The Bunnymen will be joined by a string section to perform it at Birmingham on Sunday, September 25.

For more information see the website www.thsh.co.uk



Ian McCulloch, frontman of Liverpool's Echo and the Bunnymen

What's on at the theatres

MUSICAL All The Fun Of The Fair, featuring the songs of David Essex and the man himself, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from tomorrow (Friday) and continues over the weekend. So get ready to Rock On.

Rhinestone Mondays, the new line-dancing play with country music, reunites former members of pop group Steps, Faye Tozer and Ian H Watkins at Wolverhampton Grand nightly to Saturday.

The show also co-stars ex-EastEnders and TV karaoke star Shaun Williamson and former New Seeker Lyn Paul, who last appeared at the Grand starring in Blood Brothers.

Next up at the Grand is Buddy Vs The Killer, from Thursday to Saturday (Sep 22-24), which stars Billy Geraghty as both Texan pop

star Buddy Holly and wildman of rock 'n' roll Jerry Lee Lewis.

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical Evita continues at Birmingham Hippodrome to September 24. It will be followed by Birmingham Royal Ballet's sumptuous staging of Beauty and the Beast from September 28 to October 2.

Radio

Birmingham Rep on the road present both Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest and Tom Stoppard's homage to Wilde, Travesties, at The Old Rep in the city to September 22.

The Fitzrovia Radio Hour, a humorous tribute to the BBC radio dramas of the 1940s, should be absolutely spiffing at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday night.

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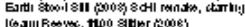
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BBC2 9.00 *Cheeky Zoo*, 9.30 *CBBC*, 9.30 *Cheeky*, 11.25 *The Pink Panther Show*, 12.00 *Daily Politics*, 12.30 *GMT* with George Alagiah, 1.00 *Diagnostic Murder*, 1P 1.55 *To Buy or Not to Buy?*, 2.15 *Animal 24/7*, 3P 2.50 *Weakest Link*, 3.55 *Paid Record*, 4P 4.50 *Flog It!*, 5.00 *Antiques Roadshow*, 6.00 *Real History of Britain*, 7.00 *Hatfield on Film*, 7.30 *Coast*, 8P 8.30 *Gardener's World*, 9.00 *Digging for Britain*, 9.30 *Q*, 10.30 *Newswatch*, 11.00 *The Pearly Show*, 11.50 *Liter* with Jocelyn Hawkins, 12.00 *The Protectors*, 2.00 *Sunday Morning Gardening*.

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Channel 5

6:00 Mike & Molly 3.15 The
Night Shift Extra With Gaby Lopez 12.95
S News Update 1.00
Home and Away 1.05 Neighbors 2.15 C&C
Mind (R) 3.10 The Family Peds. (R) 3.15 Alvin
and the Chipmunks (2008) Drama, dancing, action
Comed. 5.00 S News at 5:30 Weather 5.30
GTV 7.00 S News at 7 7.30 Fawn Star
S News Update 8.00 The Gadget Show S News at
8 8.50 Big Brother: Live Election, Britn' Downing
reveals the second candidate for the show 10.00
The Interview 11.30 Big Brother: UK on the Loose
SuperGranny 9.5 Motorport Grand Prix
Gadget Show (R) 5.00 Country Secrets (R)
5.30 South Polder (R)

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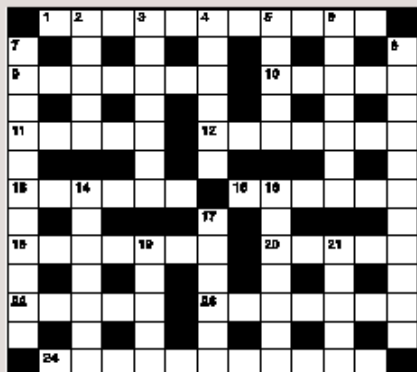
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Crossword



Across

- 1 Happening to be photographing the site! (6,5)
- 8 & 10 On What faces the houses of the French capital? (7,2,5)
- 10 A note needs transposing by the right vocalist (5)
- 11 He's a alien as a rule (5)
- 12 This is assumed to make a sound neither look more attractive (3-4)
- 13 What the cat did, having run round the track? (6)
- 15 Having been topped, it's topped and then tipped! (5)
- 18 Take pains to show calamity (7)
- 20 They're instrumental as water-carriers (5)
- 22 Told about one showing remorse (5)
- 23 Adorning to break a kind of knot (7)
- 24 Dating to take a risk with certain people (11)

Last Week's Solutions:

Across: 1 Broom; 5 Auld; 8 Stone; 10 Hallow; 11 Man; 12 Cider; 13 League of heart; 18 Distort; 19 Roll; 20 Cuckoo; 21 Thief; 22 Leap; 23 Rosalind; Down: 2 Outside; 3 Tidy; 4 Conscience; 6 History; 7 Dessert; 9 Switch; 13 Gold; 14 Absence; 15 Ostrich; 16 Embark; 17 Rabbit.

Down

- 2 What increases your bank balance once more (5)
- 3 Deeply emotional in past, present or future (7)
- 4 Stone coming from the north in great variety (6)
- 5 More recent piece of rare talent brought up (5)
- 6 To do this, one may need to give a man time (7)
- 7 So due parts will reveal those who take financial risks (11)
- 8 Emulating the pilgrim? (11)
- 14 The result of taking a one-sided picture (7)
- 16 See 9 Across
- 17 Firm amalgamation (5)
- 18 Fanatic has to make progress in the past (5)
- 21 Being precise about a Trojan king (5)

Brain Gym No.134

Work Out your Largest Muscle

- Chinese (Mandarin)
- English (British)
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish (Spain)

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Word Square

Using the central letter and at least three others, how many words can you find? Plurals, proper nouns and hyphenated words are not allowed, and there is at least one 9-letter word.

10 words = 0%

15 words = 0.00

20 words = 0.00

25+ words = Excellent



Last Week's Solutions:
7-letter word - Unpleasant

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Sudoku

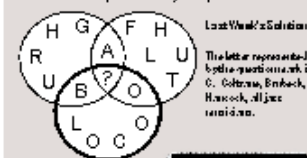
	2	9		4			5	
		6			2			
1	4		2	9			8	
		2				4	5	7
	7				5			1
6	1	3				8		
	9			6	3		2	6
		4				1		
			9		2		4	

Last Week's Solutions:

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contain all the digits from 1 to 9.

Circagram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



Last Week's Solutions:

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Colours, Embers, Hares, along with a lion.

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GRANGE LANE WOLLESCOTE



£895PCM

A delightful Traditional Three Bedroom Detached property in a popular location and benefiting from Gas Central Heating, Large Rear Garden and Double (Tandem) Garage. The property further benefits from useful Off Road Parking to the fore, with patio area and lawn with mature shrubs, in the Large Garden. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

DERRY CLOSE HARBOURNE



£695PCM

A Spacious three bedroom semi detached property within access to the University and Queen Elizabeth Hospital with accommodation to comprise of: Hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, garden, garage and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

WHITTINGHAM ROAD HALESOWEN



£650PCM

A well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular and sought after location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having front and rear gardens, off road parking, garage, gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

WITTON STREET STOURBRIDGE



£650

A beautifully presented three bedroom detached property situated in a sought after residential location close to Mary Stevens Park. Accommodation comprises of Porch, Hall, sitting room, refitted kitchen, utility room, dining room, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating and enclosed rear garden. Viewing highly recommended. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: YES

TREFOIL GARDENS AMBLECOTE



£575PCM

A beautifully presented two bedroom ground floor Apartment situated in a popular modern development close to all amenities of Stourbridge town centre with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, feature balcony, superb modern kitchen, master bedroom with ensuite, further bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

REGENT ROAD TIVIDALE



425PCM

A deceptively spacious three bedroom semi detached property located near to local amenities. The accommodation comprises: Porch, reception hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, verandah, three bedrooms and bathrooms. The property further benefits from having off road parking, front and rear gardens and gas central heating. FURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO



ST GILES ROW LOWER HIGH STREET

A well presented three bedroom mews style property situated close to all the amenities of Stourbridge town centre with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, secure off road parking and garden to the rear. UNFURNISHED DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: MAY CONSIDER

£675.00 PCM



HERONDALE ROAD WOLLASTON

A beautifully presented two bedroom detached bungalow situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of reception hall, fitted kitchen with dining area, sitting room, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and garage. The property also boasts a lovely rear garden and countryside view. Viewing highly recommended. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£650PCM



RASTRICK CLOSE BRIDGNORTH

A superb brand new three bedroom mid terrace property in this new and popular development with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, WC, three bedrooms, En-suite and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, garage, off road parking, fore garden and enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£650.00PCM



DERWENT CLOSE PENSNETT

A good three bedroom semi detached property in need of some TLC with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, WC, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having partial double glazing, electric storage heating, detached garage, off road parking and enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: YES CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£595.00 PCM



LOVE LANE OLDSWINFORD

An extremely well presented two bedroom period terrace property, in a much sought after location. Close to Oldswinford Village and Mary Stevens Park and rail networks. The accommodation comprises of: Sitting room, Dining room, fitted kitchen with hob and oven, Versatile cellar, double bedroom single bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from rear garden, gas central heating and partial double glazing. Viewing highly recommended. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£595



COLUMBUS AVENUE MERRY HILL

A two bedroom apartment situated on the ever popular Merry Hill Centre complex and close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, fully fitted kitchen, Lounge, 2 bedrooms - master with en-suite, and house bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER

£575PCM



ALBERT STREET LYE

A two bedroom period terrace property in popular residential location, to comprise, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, hallway, lobby and bathroom. The property also benefits from a rear garden. Currently being re-furnished. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM



HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A well presented two bedroom semi detached property in the heart of Wordsley. Accommodation comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. Viewing is highly recommended. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: YES SMOKERS: NO

£530.00 PCM



HAWKESLEY ROAD DUDLEY

A refurbished two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location close to Russells Hall Hospital with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking for two cars and front and rear gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£525PCM



STOURBRIDGE ROAD HALESOWEN

A well presented two bedroom second floor Apartment situated close to Halesowen Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: Communal Entrance hall, private entrance door, lounge with dining and storage cupboard, off fitted kitchen, double bedroom with en-suite shower room and further bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and electric storage heating. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525pcm



GEORGE ROAD HALESOWEN

A Well presented two bedroom Mid Terraced property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, through lounge diner, fully fitted kitchen, two good sized bedrooms & bathroom. The property further benefits from having off road parking and an enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM



THE OLD COURT HOUSE DUDLEY

A two bedroom Apartment split over three levels in this Period building and offering loads of character with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and one allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£500PCM



COPPICE ROAD CRADLEY HEATH

A well presented Two bedroom house in a popular location. Accommodation comprises: Lounge with gas fire, Diner also with gas fire, Kitchen with both wall and base units and additional storage room. Bedroom Two has fitted wardrobes and Bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from double glazing and both front and rear gardens. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO DSS: NO

£495PCM



KING STREET WOLLASTON

A Superbly Presented one bedroom Bungalow situated in a much sought after residential location and close to all amenities of Wollaston Village with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, Kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and conservatory. The property further benefits from having double glazing, gas central heating, rear courtyard and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£495PCM



BEECHCROFT PEDMORE ROAD LYE

A three bedroom mid terrace property close to all amenities and has accommodation to comprise: lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, cellar and three bedrooms. The property also has double glazing, central heating and a small rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: YES PETS: NO

£495PCM



HOLLY ROAD ROWLEY REGIS

A Two Bedroom End terrace Victorian property in a popular location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas fire, central heating, double glazing and a rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£475PCM



SCOTT STREET GREAT BRIDGE

A Second Floor One bedroom Apartment in a popular modern development. Accommodation comprises Lounge, Kitchen with oven and hob, Bedroom and Bathroom with over bath shower. The property further benefits from Double Glazing, Electric Heating and Allocated Parking. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No

£450 pcm



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A very well presented One Bedroom House in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises Lounge with electric fire, Kitchen with both Oven and Hob, Bedroom with storage and Bathroom with a white suite and Shower. UNFURNISHED DSS: No PETS: No CHILDREN: No SMOKERS: No

£425PCM



ENVILLE STREET STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from gas central heating and electric heating and double glazing. DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM



LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented second floor purpose built apartment with accommodation to comprise: Entrance hall, open plan kitchen/lounge, double bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£395 PCM

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DOVE DRIVE AMBLECOTE

A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower and double bedroom. The property further benefits from gas fire, electric panel heating and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No PETS: No Children: No Smokers: No

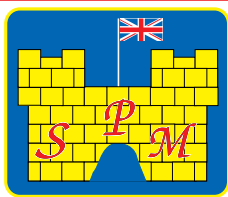
£375.00



NORTHGATE CRADLEY HEATH

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment, situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space with communal gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: No PETS: No CHILDREN: No SMOKERS: No

£350PCM



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WORDSLEY**NEW**

INGATESTONE DRIVE
£540 pcm
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UPPER GORNA**NEW**

WOOD ROAD
£525 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

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BARNETT LANE SHOPS
£425 pcm
Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Available Immediately.

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

HIGH STREET
FOR SALE £159,950
Superb residential property offering good sized accommodation located in central Kingswinford. Comprises of Entrance Porch, Large Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Ground Floor WC, Lounge, Three Bedrooms and a Bathed Shower Room. Benefits include Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking for 2.5 cars, and very well presented rear garden. Viewing on this property is highly recommended.

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

HIGH STREET
FOR SALE £119,950
Detached premises with planning permission for two bedroomed residential home. Unique opportunity for conversion, all plans available for viewing upon request.

TIPTON**NEW**

ANCHOR DRIVE
£495 pcm
Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

LOWER GORN**NEW**

HILLSIDE
£525 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens.

BRIERLEY HIL**NEW**

FOXDALE DRIVE
£475 pcm
Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Allocated Parking

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

HAZEL ROAD
£625 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT**NEW**

HIGH STREET
£535 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets and Curtains, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Garage.

SEDGLEY**NEW**

ROWAN ROAD
£525 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden

WORDSLEY**NEW**

HOLLYHURST DRIVE
£575 pcm
Mid Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

LARCH ROAD
£595 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Garage, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

BROAD STREET
£540 pcm
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.

WORDSLEY**NEW**

INGATESTONE DRIVE
£525 pcm
Purpose Built First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Garage, Off Road Parking.

GREAT BRIDGE**NEW**

EAGLE PLACE
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Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Economy Seven Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Private Parking, Security Entrance Door

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

KINGSLEY ROAD
£725 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

WORDSLEY**NEW**

CROWN OAKS DRIVE
£495 pcm
Purpose Built Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Available Immediately.

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

COTTAGE STREET
£550 pcm
Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFOR**NEW**

THE PORTWAY
£650 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Shower Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens

PENSNETT

TANSEY GREEN ROAD
£575 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFOR

THE PORTWAY
£650 pcm
Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Conservatory, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Double Garage, Parking.

COLLEY GATE

WINDMILL HILL
£450 pcm
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Recently Refurbished, Available Immediately.

TIPTON

AVERN CLOSE
£360 pcm
Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

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Final three homes at Waters Edge complex

LEADING housebuilder Barratt West Midlands now has just three remaining waterside apartments at the Severn View apartment complex at Waters Edge on Mart Lane, Stourport.

The development has experienced high demand for its apartments thanks to its beautiful waterside location at Stourport's canal basin and its wide appeal to investors, first time buyers and anyone looking to move to a smaller scenic property now that their children have moved home.

"Our apartments in Severn View at Waters Edge have been exceptionally popular" said Stephen Cleveley, senior sales manager for Barratt West Midlands.

"And it's easy to see why. Our apartments enjoy the beautiful scenery of the canal basin and Stourport has become one of Worcester-shire's premier locations thanks to its excellent facilities and attractions.

Spacious

"Residents in Severn View are just a short walk along the canal from the centre of Stourport with everything it has to offer, so our final three properties represent an excellent chance for buyers to secure a home at this popular development."

The final selection of apartments in Severn View includes the Mease-style two bedroom apartment, which is available for £139,950 and features two spacious double bedrooms including a master bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, as well as an airy open plan living and dining room, modern kitchen and separate bathroom.

"We're really looking forward to welcoming visitors to see the final homes in Severn View" said Mr Cleveley.

"We are anticipating especially high demand for these final homes, so I



There has been high demand for the apartments in picturesque Stourport

would advise anyone interested to waste no time in contacting our friendly and helpful sales advisers, who will be on hand to answer any questions you have about moving to Waters Edge."

Barratt West Midlands is currently offering a selection of homes that are ideal for either downsizers or first time buyers at its Waters Edge development on Mart Lane in Stourport-on-Severn, which currently features a range of two-bedroom apartments priced from £139,950.

For more information, contact the sales office on 01299 828 130 open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Alternatively, call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm or log on to www.barratthomes.co.uk/waters-edge

Barratt West Midlands has been confirmed as meriting the maximum five star official rating from the Home Builders Federation (HBF) for the second year in a row.

The news was announced after more than 20,000 new home buyers across the country took part in this year's HBF customer satisfaction survey.

For added peace of mind, buyers can also benefit from Barratt's new five year guarantee on fixtures and fittings in their new home at the time of purchase.

Items covered at no extra cost to the buyer will include appliances such as washing machines and refrigerators, kitchen units, wardrobes, the central heating system, fires, doors, windows, drainage, the hot and cold plumbing system and even the driveway.

Don't be sheepish when using wool in the home

COUNTING sheep might be worth a try to encourage sweet dreams, but featuring wool and sheepskin is a guaranteed way to ensure a smart home.

The fashionable flock are snuggling on sheepskin rugs, snapping up furniture and accessories boasting beautifully knitted upholstery, or simply picking up their knitting needles this autumn.

Wool's durable qualities have just been celebrated for the second year running by HRH The Prince of Wales, among others, who initiated the Wool Week campaign last year.

Filter

From September 5-11, shops across the UK dedicated to wool-inspired windows and major stores including John Lewis, Heal's, House of Fraser and Conran supported the campaign.

"Trends we see on the catwalk don't just filter into our wardrobes, they also have a great impact on interior design," says John Bain, global design director for Brintons carpets.

"The natural springiness and resilience of wool makes it a perfect carpet choice for the family home, while providing insulation which will help reduce heat loss during winter."

Our nation's renewed passion for crafts, coupled with a desire to know the provenance of items, are also fuelling this trend for wool wonders.

So indulge yourself in sheep chic and treat yourself to home items with a baacode.

There's nothing like the tactile, sensual experience of snuggling up on sheepskin, which retains heat in winter but can be cool in summer.

House Couturier's Eco Wool accessories collection boasts some animal friendly, hand-made couture, using 100 per cent wool from old European sheep breeds.

The collection includes bed covers, £2,396, a delightful Racka footstool, £1,920, and cushions, £286 each.

The White Company's Luxury Sheep-



Get the look - woollen throws and cushions available from Laura Ashley

skin collection is also highly desirable, with its huge, squashy beanbags, £950, large rugs, £500, and cushions, £60.

But those who want to break away from the conventional could indulge in the imaginative work of designers who are seizing the chance to work with wool.

Armchair

"Wool is definitely making a comeback in the design industry following a trend that rediscovered distinctive natural materials," said Gianluca Armento, brand director for Italian design company Cassina.

Designer Franco Albini has created the stunning limited edition Te Pezzi Wool armchair, £4,000, using white Mongolian goat hair and the results are simply stunning.

If even the thought of picking up your

needles and knitting up some accessories puts you in a spin, simply plunder the high street home stores.

There's a flock of knitted treasures on offer that are perfect for warming chilly rooms.

Laura Ashley's selection is particularly impressive with its fashionable hand-made feel.

Their Asha basket weave throw, £100, and knitted cushions, from £38 each, are well worth splashing some cash on.

Marks & Spencer has beautiful sheepskin rugs, from £39.50, as well as treats for sofas.

These include a loose knit throw, £45, and chunky knit buttoned cushion, going for £25.

Tesco is bang on style and price with a cable knit cushion, £10, from its F&F home range.



It's hands-off motoring

A photograph showing the interior of a car from the driver's perspective. A man with glasses and a white shirt is driving. The car features a large, wide infotainment screen in the center console displaying a navigation map. The steering wheel has a BMW logo. A rearview mirror with a camera feed is visible above the dashboard, showing a rear view of the road and another car. The car is on a road with greenery in the background.

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Customer deposit	\$140.00
Total advance	\$7125.00
Total amount interest	\$1595.76
36 Monthly payments	\$140.41
Final payment	\$3666.00
Representative APR	9.9% APR
Total amount payable	\$10360.76



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Peugeot has urged motorists to be safety conscious as the bell rings for the new school term

Cap your speed near schools, says Peugeot

PEUGEOT is looking to cap speed now that the school summer holidays have come to an end.

The company is reminding motorists that by using a speed-limiter they can drive safely, enjoy better fuel economy and protect their licence.

At this time of year drivers should be extra vigilant, especially around schools at peak hours.

Peugeot is calling on its customers, or drivers of any vehicle equipped with speed limiters, to set them to 20mph when driving near schools or entering residential areas. Speed limiters can be fitted to most cars.

The system, equipped as standard to most Peugeot

models, electronically prevents drivers from exceeding the speeds they set on the device.

Morgan Lecoupeur, director of marketing for Peugeot UK, said: "Excessive speed is widely regarded as the number one contributor of road accidents, and keeping a speed below 20mph makes total sense when driving in residential areas or near schools.

"However, maintaining 20 mph or lower in a modern car is taxing in itself, but in truth it needn't have to be due to speed limiters fitted to most new models.

"Once a desired speed is set, our system prevents the driver from exceeding that velocity."

Formula One king Vettel designs his own vehicle

THE perfect high-performance Infiniti Crossover – designed by, and built for, Formula One World Champion Sebastian Vettel – was making its debut in concept form at the 64th International Motor Show in Frankfurt.

The Red Bull Racing driver and Infiniti Global Brand Ambassador was unveiling "his" car at the show.

The first-ever Vettel-badged road car, the FX Sebastian Vettel version is the lightest, fastest and most aerodynamic FX yet.

It reflects the world champion's desire for a speedy 300km/h Crossover that he can drive on his home country's derestricted Autobahn.

Sporting

Based on the already fast and sporting V8-powered FX50S Premium, the FX Sebastian Vettel version features changes to engine, suspension and body.

There are also key aerodynamic enhancements implemented with input from Red Bull Racing.

The one-off model also gains an interior personalised to Vettel's taste, taking the brand hallmarks of exclusiveness and individuality to new levels.



The Infiniti Crossover was being unveiled in concept form at the International Motor Show in Frankfurt

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Chevrolet's Volt was first through the door at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders exhibition

Chevrolet finds a spark at the show with Volt

THE revolutionary Chevrolet Volt has been welcomed as the first vehicle to appear in the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' (SMMT) showroom-style exhibition area at its new premises in the heart of Westminster.

The space provides an opportunity to highlight the breadth and scale of the modern UK automotive industry to visitors and passers-by in a prime, central London location.

The Volt was driven onto its new display stand in electric-only mode and even managed to avoid London's Congestion Charge en route thanks to its innovative electric drivetrain, E-REV (Extended-Range Electric Vehicle), which powers the car's wheels directly.

Battery

The petrol engine generates power for the battery, giving the car a maximum range of 60 miles in full electric mode.

The Chevrolet Volt has already won several awards in the USA, where the vehicle was crowned North American Car of

the Year, as well as winning recognition from titles such as Motor Trend and Automobile Magazine.

The Volt goes on sale in the UK in March 2012, and is eligible for the full £5,000 from the government's plug-in car grant.

Customers interested in finding out more about the Chevrolet Volt can visit the dedicated Volt customer site at www.voltchevrolet.co.uk.

Parent

The Chevrolet brand celebrates its centenary this year, and is the world's fourth largest car brand.

Its parent company, General Motors, announced the Chevrolet brand would be coming to Europe at the 2004 Paris Motor Show, and launched the brand in all major European markets, including the UK, in 2005.

In that time, Chevrolet has grown to achieve sales of over 500,000 units across Europe, and a pan-European market share of more than one per cent.

Land Rover now the UK's favourite four-wheel drive



Land Rover won more than half of the vote in a national poll

WHO MAKES the best 4x4s? That'll be Land Rover, which blitzed its rivals in a poll of 40,000 people to find the UK's favourite 4x4 maker.

Not for the first time, Land Rover has blown its off-roader rivals into the weeds. The famous British marque claimed an astonishing 54 per cent of the vote in a MSN Cars poll.

Just under 40,000 people provided their answer to the question: "Which firm makes the best '4x4' type cars?" when it was posed on the MSN Cars website last month.

Respondents were invited to choose their favourite from a list of 12 leading 4x4 manufacturers which included Jeep, Mitsubishi and Subaru as well as premium marques such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche.

Second-placed Toyota polled nine per cent of the vote, so Land Rover's 54 per cent was the definition of an emphatic victory. Audi arrived in third place with eight per cent.

The MSN Cars poll clearly shows the UK public hold a special place in their hearts for Land Rover and its products. The first vehicle to carry the famous name appeared in 1948 and, although the company is now owned by TATA Motors, its headquarters are still based in Gaydon, Warwickshire.

The current Land Rover range includes household names such as the Freelander, Discovery and Defender models, along with the premium Range Rover and Range Rover Sport line-ups.

"We are thrilled that MSN users have voted Land Rover their favourite 4x4 brand," said Colin Green, managing director of Land Rover UK.

"We know that Land Rover has some of the best brand loyalty figures in the industry and this poll is testament to that.

Authentic

"Taking over half the votes is a great achievement and goes to prove that Land Rover really does make the world's most authentic 4x4s. Thank you to everyone who voted for us!"

"As one of Britain's most cherished car companies, it's no surprise to see Land Rover top our poll as the maker of the best 4x4 vehicles," said Tom Evans, editor of MSN Cars.

"Its profile is about to get much higher with the arrival on our roads of a handsome, compact and affordable model in the shape of the Range Rover Evoque, which looks set to be a great success."

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The new Perodua Myvi comes with a £1,000 incentive offer and a free hands-free Bluetooth kit

Talk while you drive with Bluetooth offer

PERODUA customers who buy a new Myvi during September will benefit from a free hands-free Bluetooth kit thanks to a new offer from the Malaysian car company.

Myvi customers will receive a Nexxus Drive Sleek Pro hands-free Bluetooth kit which can be easily and discreetly secured to the driver's sun visor.

The slimline Bluetooth kit will give customers the benefit of hands-free calling allowing them to safely make calls in their new Myvi.

To receive the free hands-free Bluetooth kit, customers need to complete a voucher which can be obtained from Perodua UK by email perodua@peroduauk.com, by phone on 01491 415230 or by visiting Perodua UK's website www.peroduauk.com.

The voucher must be presented to the Perodua dealer at the time of purchasing a new Myvi – it's as simple as that. This offer is available when purchasing any new Myvi,

including Perodua's added value Myvis which continue to benefit from no VAT increase until September 30.

The Myvi represents fantastic value for money with features such as air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, power steering and an integrated radio/CD player all as standard.

With Perodua's current £1,000 incentive offer, the stylish Myvi super-mini is available from as little as £6,999.

Incentive

Perodua are also giving all Myvi customers remote central locking free of charge until September 30. This representing a saving of over £160.

With a number of fantastic offers currently available from Perodua, customers are advised to contact their local Perodua dealer as soon as possible.

Customers can find their nearest dealer by visiting www.peroduauk.com

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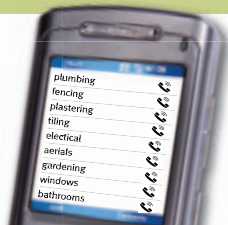
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KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-50yrs. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 373013**

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KATHY 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WLTW interesting male for dates, and more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 375587**

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 368889**

ANGIE active attractive female looking to enjoy fun and weekends away with available male who is also looking for good times. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 375583**

SARAH young looking curvy 40's mum, fed up with everyday routines, WLTW up for some fun with younger male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 375581**

DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTW similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 370023**

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BLACK female, medium build, mother of two, WLTW lively gent, 34-40, N/S with GSOH for fun. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 148702**

MIXED race sassy lady, 38yrs, attractive and fun loving, looking for love and laughter without any strings, 30-67yrs. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 372061**

ANNA 29yr old nurse, elf curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 375139**

27YR old beautiful female, genuine and fun to be with seeking genuinely romantic male for mutual spoiling. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 373017**

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DIVORCED female, attractive, OHAC, fed up with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with like minded man. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 372059**

HAVE all the good ones gone? Here I am left on the shelf looking for fun, laughter, friendship and naughty liaisons! ACA. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 372063**

ELAINE kind, romantic, loving 43, seeks genuine male for relationship. Telford. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 374845**

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 374773**

JEAN 71, fun loving Shropshire lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 373657**

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTW countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Herefordshire. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 387204**

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 371127**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651**

WENDY dark hair/eyes, medium build, seeks male for friendship and see what happens. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 361589**

FUN female, unformed, civil servant, attractive, average build, GSOH, seeks tall, professional, N/S male with GSOH for relationship. Willenhall. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 367485**

5FT 1ins female, GSOH, seeks 5ft 5ins plus, well built male with GSOH for fun, fun, fun. W Midlands. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 365743**

SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 369295**

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432**

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 368429**

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. Bridgnorth area preferred. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033**

RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755**

WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with, Shropshire Area Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 362993**

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 393373**

DIY gardening, friendly geek required by friendly 55yr old attractive teacher, sound lady to share sunny days and starlit nights in my hilltop cottage garden. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 365137**

32YR old female, brunette, N/S, likes walks, concerts, theatre, seeks male 29-35 for friendship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 309995**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 364852**

LADY 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 361043**

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351**

BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 359235**

SHROPSHIRE lady, 61, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, living on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 334241**

WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 329919**

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTW very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985**

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751**



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SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 180587**

FEEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761**

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411**

SHROPSHIRE female 40, seeks special local male to share life with. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355959**

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891**

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 11ins, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399**

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-38, enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 371945**

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SHROPSHIRE female, 40, seeking friend/relationship with a genuine male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 353071**

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 353085**

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349651**

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and romantic. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265**

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 301001**

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275**

PRINCE wanted, must be 6ft, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 374765**

FUN loving, attractive 65yr old widow likes socialising, meals out and dancing WLTW a male with a GSOH. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 135005**

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 304135**

LISA 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713**

GENUINE caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 327465**

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 for share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 351813**

ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211**

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865**

MATURE widow, likes sight seeing, coast, gardening, easygoing, seeks gent, 60-68 for friendship and companionship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 368226**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 380918**

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTW gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021**

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 338315**

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627**

YOUNG at heart lady, mid 70's, seeks slim, attractive, likes swimming, companionship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 358521**

LADY 50, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, nights out, seeks genuine guy, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 333183**

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes wining/dining, seeks mature male for fun. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669**

BOSSY lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good looking, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 326119**

SHY lady 56, seeks similar natured, wealthy, tall male who loves small dogs, driving, Dorset, DIY, dining out and feeding the ducks. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 367783**

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Hobby. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 346611**

OUTGOING sociable young female, 33, blonde, pub quizzes, kind, caring, seeks bubbly female for fun and friendship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 375281**

FIT fun guy 45, Hereford area, good job, loves walks, trips out, seeks female soul mate. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 371031**

GENUINE male, 46, honest, caring, slim-medium build, many interests, seeks female for relationship. Single mum welcome. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 231090**

MALE 53, seeks female 35-45 for friendship, maybe relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 375057**

TM Shropshire male, 58, N/S, quiet, homely, OHAC, likes music, walks, countryside, seeks similar, mature, curvy female, 50 plus. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 374943**

TONY genuine professional male, 50, likes nights in/out, many interests, seeks genuine female for relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 373351**

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun, Wolverhampton. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 368871**

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTW West Midlands lady for regular mutual pleasure. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 374821**

BRIAN Walsall male, 60, single, N/S, smart, casual, seeks West Midlands lady for regular meetings. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 374487**

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 363253**

TALL 30's guy, fun, cheeky, little extra padding, seeks open minded, slim, vivacious, curvy babe for fun and friendship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 339081**

NICE guy late 30's, genuine, open-minded, likes wine/dining, seeks likeminded lady for fun, friendship and companionship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 341135**

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SUKHI 40, seeking female for good times. Tel No: **0905 436 6562**

sport

McKenna on the mark for juniors

Boys league
Stourbridge 1 Southam 1
A LAST-MINUTE goal prevented Stourbridge under-12A taking all three points from their first match of the season.

An assured finish from Callum McKenna gave Stourbridge a 1-0 lead at half-time and they nearly got a second when Lamarr Love shot wide after a good passage of play. But the conversion of a dangerous cross meant a share of the points.

Stourbridge 6 Dudley 4
The under-12B side emerged triumphant from a 10-goal thriller.

Liam Hands struck twice in the space of two minutes to convert a cross from Conner Fowkes and a pass by Sam Green. Dudley levelled before Green got on the scoresheet and Hands completed a hat-trick.

Green netted again in the second half and although Dudley replied, Nathaniel Cannon made it 6-3 before Dudley's consolation goal.

Stourbridge U13 0 Wigston U 4
Shrewsbury 7 Stourbridge U14 1
Stratford Town 0 Stourbridge 3

The under-15s eventually ran out winners after initially being denied by a combination of woodwork, goal-line clearances and a home goalkeeper in top form.

A header from a corner in the 65th minute provided the breakthrough and although Stratford went close immediately afterwards, well-taken goals on 72 and 77 minutes confirmed the win.

Stourbridge 3 Halesowen H Minors 15
Stourbridge under-15B recorded a second consecutive victory.

A fluent first-half saw them take the lead and while they were slower to get going in the second period, they held on under pressure towards the end of a gruelling match.

Southam 4 Stourbridge 0
On a very breezy day, Stourbridge under-16 North were outplayed by a well-drilled Southam team.

At half-time they were only one down but Southam, with the wind behind them in the second period, scored three times without reply.

Stourport Swifts 0 Stourbridge 4
Two goals from Saul Hodgetts helped the under-16 South side to victory.

Stourbridge broke through courtesy of a Nathan Myers penalty; Hodgetts' brace and a goal by Callum Perks embellished a solid performance by an injury-depleted side.

Stourbridge U18 0 Stratford Town 6

ROWE STRIKES FOR GLASSBOYS

Evesham United 0 Stourbridge 1

ACE MARKSMAN Ryan Rowe scored the only goal of the game as Stourbridge bounced back from Saturday's disappointing loss at Hemel Hempstead to battle to a hard-earned victory at St Georges Lane.

After a scrappy early passage of play, the visitors forced the first save of the night in the 16th minute with James Dyson spreading the ball from right to left to enable Aaron Griffiths to fire in a low shot from some 30 yards or so out that home custodian Nathan Vaughan safely held.

The Glassboys slowly began to gain the upper hand on Tuesday and they forged ahead in the 33rd minute. Ben Billingham delivered a testing inswinging free-kick from the right which was met by Paul McCone whose header ran back across the face of the goal for Rowe to poach a close-range finish just inside Vaughan's left-hand upright.

Stourbridge run over at Vauxhall Road

Hemel Hempstead 2 Stourbridge 0

STOURBRIDGE'S unbeaten start to the season came to an end as bottom of the table Hemel belied their poor early season run of the results to pick up a well-earned win.

Vauxhall Road has not been a happy hunting ground for the Glassboys on previous visits and that proved to be the case once again as the hosts ran out winners.

Hemel, kicking down the slope, made the better start. In the opening minute David Pearce produced a good run down the left before crossing for Scott Fitzgerald to glance a header wide of the far post.

Eight minutes later a fine save from Lewis Solly prevented the home side from grabbing the lead as Paul McCone misjudged a long ball forward to let in Fitzgerald. Solly clawed away his job.

Turn

Stourbridge had their moments, a cushioned header from Ryan Rowe enabling Ben Billingham to strike a shot on the turn from the edge of the box past Nick Bussey's right-hand post.

However, the visitors fell behind in the 18th minute when a crossfield pass from Sean Geddes aimed for Sam Rock was read by Danny May who intercepted the ball before letting fly with a fierce long-range low drive that gave Solly no chance.

The Glassboys had a half-chance on 36 minutes when a free-kick from McCone was headed on by Leon Broadhurst on the left-hand edge of the box but the nearest flick from Rowe dropped wide.

Hemel went desperately close to a second goal in the 40th minute as Liam Malone hooked the ball over



Stourbridge's Sean Geddes

his head only to see his effort rebound off Solly's right-hand upright.

Stourbridge had the advantage of slope and wind after the break and two minutes after the restart a free-kick from Geddes drew a save from Bussey.

But in the 64th minute Hemel got the second. A free-kick from Pearce on the left was met by Matt McEntegart and he sent a powerful looping header past Solly to settle the match.

Big win gives Pershore runners-up place

THE season's final round of fixtures in **Division One** of the Worcestershire Cricket League saw six matches with little left to play for, including a rain-affected draw at Bromyard for champions Stourbridge who topped the 400-point mark in the process.

Pershore secured the runners-up spot with a big win at Oldswinford and Astwood Bank finished third following victory at relegated Bewdley.

Nomads, for a long time almost lone pursuers of Stourbridge, had to settle for fourth after rain shortened their match at Pedmore, writes **Chris Marsh**. There were also wins for Worcester at Romsley and Redditch against Droitwich.

In **Division Two** leaders Coombs Wood notched the few points needed for the title in a rain-off match versus Monmouth. Colwall were promoted as

runners-up following a win at home to their neighbours, relegated Malvern, thanks to 7-30 from Mike King which included a hat-trick.

Hagley were frustrated by rain at Belbroughton and finished third, but may well be promoted once news of the Birmingham League is clear.

Burghill beat Netherton to stay fourth, Dominies defeated Feckenham and Wormelow overcame Kidderminster.

Division Three champions Rushwick won at home to Birlingham and ended the season on 423 points.

Alvechurch were runners-up with 394 after beating fourth-placed Envile thanks to 137 not out from 14-year-old Jimmy Clifford.

Lye lost at Chaddesley to confirm their relegation and Old Vigornians won for the second week running but were still relegated after Himbleton tied with Harborne to stay up.

Late flurry puts Stour past the 400 mark

Bromyard 220-6, Stourbridge 122-5. Draw
WORCESTERSHIRE league champions Stourbridge finished the season on a record 401 points after settling for a losing draw against Bromyard in a rain-affected match.

The champions were given a guard of honour as they took the field.

Bromyard, put in to bat, made a splendid start as openers Ash Bullock and Ed Oliver put on 142 for the first wicket.

But they failed to build on the platform and closed on 220-6 off the 50 overs.

Stourbridge's bowlers struggled to break through the top order on a good batting track but maintained control over the run rate.

Skipper Oliver was the first to go, for 86, well caught on the boundary by Richard Bradley off the leg spin of Andy Alexander.

Track

Needing to push the score on Bromyard's batsmen lost their way, Bullock was bowled by Matt Bradley for 61 and Zahid Saed and Dinusha Fernando went fell to Bradley for seven and 29 respectively.

Bromyard's score looked well short of par on a track full of runs.

Bradley took 3-67 off 16 overs.

Stour, in reply, struggled against the Bromyard opening attack of Greg Leighton and Tom Baylis, losing five wickets for 85.

At this stage they were still a point short of breaking the 400 points barrier in the league.

Matt Bradley resisted until he was bowled for 39 by Oliver. Rain then intervened, cutting short Stour's overs and the runs required to 174 for victory.

Although rain threatened to end the match and Stour's hopes of reaching the landmark 400 points Alex Bingham then took charge.

He smacked a belligerent 59 and with Ben Mantom finishing on seven it was enough to gain the two points required from a losing draw.

Stour will return to play in the Birmingham League in 2012 after a decade in the Worcestershire league.

The Stourbridge Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford on Thursday, September 15, 2011.

Langford so close to glory



So close - Dudley-Kingswinford's Ian Langford is in the clear but pulls up after the whistle blew for a forward pass. But his team won 45-12 at home to Broadstreet

Saxons pay the penalty for a sluggish opening

Coventry 22 Stourbridge Saxons 17

STOURBRIDGE fell to a narrow Midlands derby defeat against Coventry in an untidy match, dominated by a strong wind.

Despite prominent individual displays from veteran forwards Jim Jenner and Liam Wordley, the Saxons paid the price for a lacklustre first quarter during which the hosts built a 17-point lead.

Neil Mitchell's team also squandered numerous second-half opportunities to add to tries from Peter White and Will Davis, meaning they claimed a solitary losing bonus point from their third defeat of the season.

Barged

Coventry centre Luke Myring opened the scoring with a 30-metre, third-minute penalty after Mark Woodrow's interception was called back for offside. The hosts, playing with the wind at their backs, dominated the early stages and after their forwards won quick ball under the visitors' posts former Northampton prop Adam Parkins barged over for a converted score.

A second home seven-pointer arrived towards the end of the opening quarter,

when flanker Brett Daynes reacted quickly to force his way over from a quickly-tapped free kick. Stourbridge needed and after they strung some phases together to gain a foothold in home territory, Mark Woodrow slotted over a penalty goal.

Woodrow's pinpoint touch-finder then gave his forwards a close-range, driving lineout opportunity. After the hosts' England Counties flanker Alex Nash was despatched to the sin bin for killing their first attempt, an action replay left scrum-half White with the easiest of touchdowns.

At seven points down but with the benefit of the elements to come, Stourbridge seemed probable winners at the interval. However, after missing two good scoring opportunities they conceded again when giant French lock Benji Dechartres powered over for an unconverted score.

Finally, a quick tap-and-go saw prop Davis barge his way over. Woodrow's well-judged kick added the extras, to set up a grandstand finish during which the Saxons pressed hard. But a determined Cov side hung on for their second home win.

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We'd like to tell you more about what we do here at Leekes...



With seven stores in Wales, the West of England and the Midlands, Leekes is now the UK's largest independent department store. It's not always easy to describe what we are. A furniture retailer? A kitchen and bathroom specialist? Home accessories store? How about a conservatory specialist? Well we're all of these and a lot more besides, in fact we like to think 'home experts' sums us up best.

We've been serving our customers for over 100 years, but we never rest on our laurels. We're always looking for new inspiration and ideas for your home and continue to offer the latest looks and trends across all of our departments.

Providing our customers with excellent service and a wide range of quality products at competitive prices are our core principles. And, with our Lowest Price Guarantee, we are confident that you won't find better value anywhere else.

The biggest range and the best brand

With over 40 different kitchens, more than 100 bathrooms and showers to choose from, 120 ceiling light fittings, sofas, beds, dining sets, televisions, a whole host of home accessories, lamps, mirrors and much, much more – it's easy to see why we're the most popular choice for all things 'home'.



Experienced and knowledgeable staff

Offering our customers the best products at competitive prices is a core part of our philosophy, but we also recognise that the right people are key to our success. That's why we invest in and value our staff, many of which have been with us for many years.

Knowledgeable staff play a big part in what we're about and you'll find all our Consultants enthusiastic and happy to provide you with advice to find exactly what you're looking for.



What makes us different?

We like to think that being a family-owned business, selling everything for the home all under one roof makes us unique, but there are lots of other reasons why we stand out from the crowd.

Flexible & Affordable Finance

From interest free credit with no deposit to low APR finance on conservatories.



Home Delivery Service

When we deliver your goods, we'll contact you on the morning of delivery with an estimated arrival time and we'll unpack your goods, taking the packaging away for recycling.



Online Shopping

Thousands of items available to purchase at the press of a button at leekes.co.uk.



360° Complete Service

We like to help customers from start to finish. Ask our Design Consultants about our free design, planning and project management service.



Price Promise*

Always the best price - supported by our money back guarantee.



Leekes
You're home

We all know that the kitchen is the hub of the home and finding the one that's perfect for you and how you'll use it is one of our areas of expertise.

Our Kitchen Studio showcases a carefully selected range of over 40 kitchens from leading designers including Sheraton, Rotpunkt, Cusina and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The options are almost limitless - hand crafted, classic oak, contemporary high gloss - and there's a whole host of work surfaces, appliances and accessories to complete the look too.

Once you've made your choice, our kitchen experts will guide you through our 360° Complete Service to create an affordable kitchen that's as individual as you are.

up to **30% off kitchens****

available with interest free credit[†] and no deposit to pay



up to **30% off bathrooms**

available with interest free credit[†]

and no deposit to pay



With over 50 bathrooms and showers on display, you'll be forgiven for feeling spoilt for choice! It comes as no surprise to find that each model combines practical design with functional style as our bathrooms and showers are designed by some of the biggest and best in the market - Jacuzzi, Heritage, Daryl, Roman and Utopia - to name just a few.

As with our kitchens, our experts in the Bathroom Studio will take you through our 360° Complete Service - planning, design and an installation service all comes as standard - so we take care of everything for you.

**The largest range
of kitchens and bathrooms
in the West Midlands**

Casa conservatories available from **£9,495***

including cane furniture, Casa tiles and a Dimplex heater/fan worth £1,000

If you're considering adding space or improving the exterior of your home, then our Conservatory and Glazing experts here at Leekes are full of great ideas to help.

Using the finest materials, the latest technology and traditional craftsmanship, you'll find the most up to the minute innovations available - from conservatories with tiled roofs to garden rooms and orangeries.

And it's not just about conservatories. Installing replacement windows and doors, garage doors and soffits and fascias is something we're experienced in too.

Whatever home improvement project you're considering investing in, there's free design as well as a planning and installation service and a 10 year guarantee for total peace of mind - from a company with over 100 years of experience.



Leekes
You're home

Save ^{up to} £1300 on dining and ^{up to} £1000 on sofas

available with interest free credit[†] and no deposit to pay



“More than any other room in your home, your lounge says the most about your personality. Whether you're looking for a contemporary corner group, sophisticated chaise longue or classic three seater sofa, quality and value for money comes as standard.

If you're looking for the perfect dining set, then you'll find an abundance of choice, from glass topped tables and elegant chairs to rustic oak dining sets and high-gloss designs too. And not forgetting the choice we have in store if it's a bed you're after. All the big brands are here including Silentnight, Rest Assured, Gainsborough and more. Sweet dreams are guaranteed – whatever you choose!

Half price underlay^{††}

You'll find carpets, wallpaper, cushions, lighting, cookware, mirrors, bedding, pictures and so much more – so it's easy to see why we're the one stop destination store for the perfect finishing touches.

And if you need a helping hand, then speak to our Interior Design team. Their speciality is knowing everything there is to know about designer fabrics from Harlequin, Romo, Blendworth and Designers Guild and how best to use them to create gorgeous bespoke window treatments, cushions and throws which will make a statement or simply make you feel at home. And what's more, their advice is free so it's well worth paying the team a visit when you pop into store.



Over 100,000 square feet
of retail space



Come and join us in our café

Take some time out in our new café. It's a great addition to the store and lets you refresh yourself and take the weight off your feet after all that shopping!

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE on sandwiches

Purchase 1 sandwich in our café and receive another one free.

Available from Monday 12th September until Wednesday 5th October 2011.



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For details of all our offers visit leekes.co.uk

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[†]Finance is subject to status, conditions apply. Minimum spend £200 in selected departments. ^{††}Available on carpet orders of £250 or more. Excludes fitting and accessories. ^{**}Offer applies to doored kitchen cabinets only, excludes plumbing and electrics and ex-display kitchens. Discounts vary according to range. Minimum spend £3000. * Price based on standard 3m x 3m Casa Conservatory.

BARCODE